

NOT FOR
CIRCULATION

California GARDEN

March/April 2007

Volume 98 No. 2

\$3.00

HOW GREEN IS OUR VALLEY

Celebrating an
overlooked plant color

Also Inside:

Timely tips,
the art of flower arranging,
how to use fertilizer optimally,
and more!

LOCAL GARDENING TELEVISION PROGRAMS

Down to Earth with Tom Piergrossi, daily at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on CTN, Time Warner 22, Cox 19 or 24, and Adelphia 66

A Growing Passion with Nan Sterman on KPBS channel 15/cable 11. Check www.agrowingpassion.com for schedules.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO ZOO

Plant Day at the Zoo, third Friday of each month. See approximately 700,000 plants. Orchid Greenhouse opens to the public 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Take a free botanically themed bus tour at 2 p.m. starting at the Orchid Greenhouse. Free with general admission.

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619-232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Volunteer-guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. 619-235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Volunteer-guided. History-oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858-679-5469.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE The Water Conservation Garden is home to 4+ acres of beautiful, award-winning, low-water-use landscaping and educational displays. Docent-led tours Saturdays 10:30 a.m. and Sundays 1:30 p.m.

619-660-0614. Check website calendar for classes and special events at www.thegarden.org. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call for times on docent-led garden tours, weekly or monthly events, and classes for kids and adults. Free composting class 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. first Saturday of the month. Bird-watching first Monday of every month 8:00a.m. Discover the many birds at QBG. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760-436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General admission.

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN Exquisite Asian garden. 404 Third Ave., San Diego. Tues.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 12-4 p.m. Free.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyonier Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept.-June. 619-232-3821, ext. 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times, and directions. Free.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY Third Friday of every month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students (12-18), \$6 youth (5-11) under 5 and members free. Group rate(10+) \$11. 626-405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

WALKABOUT INTER-NATIONAL Local guided walks. Newsletter. 619-231-SHOE. Free.



Alpine's 10th Annual Sage & Songbirds Festival & Garden Tour

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for 98 years*

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619-232-5762

www.sdflloral.org

Volume 98, Number 2
**THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS
AND FLORAL DESIGNERS**

March/April 2007

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IN HARMONY, HERBS AND SPICES, 619-223-8051, 1862 1/2 Bacon St., San Diego, CA 92107

FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden* if you'd like the magazine sold at your show.

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From the President

An organization's "great birthday" provides an opportunity to boast a bit about goals and accomplishments. We have inherited from the prominent members who organized our association a mission, a periodical that has survived from 1909 to the present, and a tradition of offering continuing education to our community. Now we establish an

Honorary Committee of horticulture leaders, and we organize special events to tell our story. We honor our members Marie Walsh, Velma West, Walter Andersen, and the Jones family for their continued support of Floral and its goals. We celebrate by pushing ourselves to provide color in our magazine, to present programs of great interest, to increase our advertising, to plan an office renovation, to increase our scholarship funding, and to develop a new membership brochure. We are following in the footsteps of our early members who also pushed themselves to provide a quality organization for the members and the community.

My research in *California Garden* magazine taught me that the founders also struggled to get sufficient participation to fill their needs. "November 1909—The Third Fall (Autumn) Exhibition of San Diego Floral Association has come and gone, and that body has time to sit down for a much needed rest and make up accounts. The exhibition was the greatest success, yet but the labor to make it such falls upon too few shoulders."

I learned that the founders often reached in their pockets to eliminate a deficit or provide "seed money" for a specific project such as trophies for their flower shows. From May 1916: "Last month the Association was pictured as waiting to be amazed at the prizes voluntarily presented. We sent round a letter to all fractional and complete millionaires saying in effect, 'If you would like to give something we will not stand in your way, on the contrary it will be gratefully received.' The amazement came along in due time; amazement at the munificent response of the few and the perfect silence of the many." Member support in providing funds is often the norm for nonprofit groups trying to fulfill their missions.

I am asking you to share that mission and to attend our fine event at the U.S. Grant hotel as our founders did in 1910. Be part of the history and plan to join other members and the public in all the events this birthday year. But also plan to pick up the phone, call the office, and volunteer to be host or hostess at an event. We are soliciting funds to defray the costs of the celebration. The newsletter will have information on how you can reach in your pocket, as did the early members, to help make our year a financial success. I urge your participation.

Kay Harry

2007 CORONADO FLOWER SHOW

"Coronado by the Sea"

A Flower Show with Floral and Horticultural Competitions

Open to the Public

Self-Guided Homefront Tours—Info Published in Flower Show Program

Saturday, April 28, 1 p.m.—5 p.m.

Sunday, April 29, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Spreckels Park—Orange Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets

Admission: Adults \$3, Free for 12 & under and Coronado Floral Association

Contact Nancy Santos for more information: 619-437-4484

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

March 2007

CRAFT AND FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOPS

□ March 5, 2007

Op-Art

Learn to do an abstract or stretch design. Bring flowers, containers, and clippers. Teacher: Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher.
Cost: \$20.

□ March 13, 2007

Take a Rest Before Big Flower Show

Weave a basket or coil some pine needles. Teachers: Kathy and Marie Walsh.
Cost: \$20.

□ March 20, 2007

Creative Line Designs

Prepare for San Diego Floral Association Flower Show at U.S. Grant Hotel. Bring flowers, containers, and clippers. Teacher: Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning designer, and teacher.
Cost: \$20.

All classes 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own lunch. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, contact SDFA at 619-232-5762. Classes limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

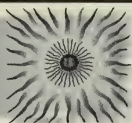
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

It's easy to register! Just fill out this form (or a copy of it) and mail it to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622. Payment for classes must be included.

SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY



Meetings 2nd Monday of each month
6 - 9 pm ♦ Free Admission, Everyone Welcome!
Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds

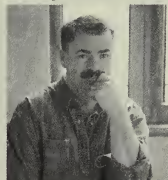
A Special Evening with the inspiring

Thomas Hobbs

Monday, April 9, 7:00pm

Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds

Acclaimed Vancouver nurseryman and author Thomas Hobbs will awaken the beautiful eye in all of us by showing that inspiration can be found in a host of places. His talk will be beautiful *and* funny, as he doesn't hold back! His two gorgeous books will be available for sale.



Reserve your seat now!

\$15/members, \$18/non-members

All major credit cards accepted

Everyone welcome - bring your garden-loving friends!

Order at www.sdhortsoc.org

QUESTIONS? Call Judy at (858) 792-6715

Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display.

Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

- ♦ Monthly 26-page newsletter
- ♦ Trips to outstanding gardens
- ♦ Discounts at nurseries
- ♦ Seed & plant swap
- ♦ Lending library: books & videos
- ♦ and much more!

FREE MEETING:

March 12: Wildscaping your Garden

Learn to use California native and other compatible plants to create a beautiful garden that's a magnet for wildlife.

FREE WORKSHOP:

March 17: Create Texture with Drought-Tolerant Plants

Meet at 9:30am, 9601 Ridgehaven Ct., Kearny Mesa, Environmental Services Green Building. Landscape designer Pamela Homfelt will lecture while leading a tour of the demonstration garden, consisting of seven individual gardens with over 150 species of plants, trees, succulents, cycads and natives.

Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089

Mission Possible

In July of 1909, when the first issue of *California Garden* magazine was published with Alfred D. Robinson as its editor, the following “objects” (objectives) were listed:

- To promote knowledge of Floriculture.
- To stimulate the intelligent love of flowers.
- To beautify the house, school and public grounds of San Diego.
- To exploit the geniality of this section from the point of view of the lover of flowers.
- And all such other matters as may properly pertain to such an Association.

These objectives were printed on S DFA’s membership forms until a few years ago, though some were prompted to ask what constituted “intelligent” love of flowers.

In 1910, when the organization was incorporated, the following statement of its mission was filed with the incorporation documents: “This Corporation is formed not for pecuniary profit, but to promote the knowledge of floriculture and a larger appreciation of flowers; to encourage the science, art and practice of floriculture, horticulture, and arboriculture and the beautifying of the grounds about the homes, the schools and other public buildings of this region; to encourage the beautifying of private and public grounds and parks, to hold exhibitions of flowers and shrubbery; to make better known the adaptability and geniality of this region for the culture and development of a wide range of flowering, and ornamental plants and growth and its attractiveness to the botanist and lover of flowers; to cultivate social intercourse among its members, and such other matters as may lie within the scope of the foregoing named general objects.

And to that end to raise monies, accumulate property, receive donations; to receive, manage, take and hold real and personal property by gift, grant, devise or bequest; to enter into contracts; to purchase and own such real estate and other property as may be necessary for the purposes of the association; and to sell and dispose of any real and personal property held by it, when no longer necessary for the purposes of the association.”

In this 2007 centennial year, the History Committee of the Association, chaired by S DFA Historian Anna Noah, asked the S DFA Board to revise and update its Mission Statement. The following Mission Statement and Objectives were approved by the Governing Board at its meeting on January 5, 2007:

MISSION

To promote the knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floriculture in the San Diego region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To educate and encourage regional gardeners through lectures, classes, publications, scholarships, and library resources.
2. To promote the use of regionally appropriate plants and gardening techniques, including natives and Mediterranean climate-adapted plants
3. To encourage, educate, and support floral design activities for personal and public display.
4. To advise and encourage leaders and the community in conservation and beautification of public and private places.
5. To network and support plant-interested groups and societies.

Thank You to Marie Walsh

On Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at the Millennium Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Friends of Balboa Park, Marie Walsh was presented with an Inspiration Award for her service to San Diego Floral Association. The reception and luncheon were held in the Balboa Park Club; mayor Jerry Sanders was the keynote speaker. Other award winners were Darlene Davies and Gene Trepte, Millennium Award Honorees; The Committee of One Hundred, Special Legacy Award; Eloise Duff, Inspiration Award winner of the San Diego Museum of Art; John and Flo Cummings, Inspiration Award winners; and Margareta Orchel, Inspiration Award winner of the House of Sweden.



Photo by Paul Nestor

Flower Arranging Tips

Provided by members of the Flower Arrangers' Guild San Diego Floral Association

Geranium leaves from the garden are very useful in floral arrangements. Pick them the night before and "condition" them overnight in water with floral preservative. They can overlap to disguise blocks of floral foam or otherwise serve as greenery in floral arrangements.

Floral supply houses carry "O-dapters," which are inserts for candleholders. A small flower arrangement can then be inserted into one branch of a candelabrum or into a single candleholder.

Use large hollow stems from flowers such as gerbera daisies to extend the length of shorter-stemmed flowers. Just insert the short flowers into the longer hollow stems; the outer stem will facilitate uptake of water.

Gray containers are the very best color to go with any color of flowers and plant material.

Send in your favorite tips for arranging flowers to editor@sdfloral.org.

Big Secrets in Store for Our Next Meeting

Professional Propagation Secrets (That You Can Use at Home): Carnivorous Plants and Rex Begonias

Speaker: Jim Booman, Booman Florals

When: April 17, 2007

Hang on to your hats—this is going to be a great ride! Jim Booman doesn't do anything that isn't going to be fun.

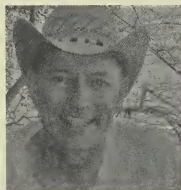
His corporate vision is to promote unusual and beautiful plants. He'll be fulfilling that vision as he shares with us propagation secrets for two types of plants he loves most.

Jim Booman's efforts have been credited with "single-handedly reviving commercial interest in Rex Begonias." He holds 20 patents for new Rex Begonia varieties as well as the world's first patent awarded to a carnivorous plant, "Cobra Nest." His company's Carnivorous Plant program is considered the largest in the world. Jim believes that plants and kids are such a great combination that he developed a special website, PlantsForKids.com, with the slogan "No Boring Plants!"

Does he know his subject? Jim focused on Plant Pathology and Vegetable Production while completing his Master of Science in Horticulture from the University of Maryland in 1980 and hasn't let up since. His firm has an output of 2 million liners per week in the winter and is housed under three acres of state-of-the-art greenhouses. Booman is a writer, photographer, and international horticultural consultant and speaker.

Clear off your propagating bench and sterilize your pots. Jim's energy and enthusiasm are highly contagious!

You're invited to bring in your own carnivorous plants if they're feeling bad. Jim will give you the right prescription to bring them back to their full glory. San Diego Floral Association's quarterly meeting is Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 7 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The meeting is free and open to the public. Prior to the meeting, an optional catered dinner is available at a cost of \$12 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Reservations should be made at the Association office, 619-232-5762, prior to Monday, April 16.—Lucy Warren



Helpful Hints from Our Readers

To save space and to extend your harvest time, plant several varieties of bare root fruit trees in the same hole. For example, if you plant three varieties of peach trees, choose an early maturing variety, a midseason variety, and a late-season-maturing variety. Let them grow in as if they were a multiple trunk tree.—Kurt S. Peacock, Walter Andersen Nursery

Regarding "Why Acacias Are Special" (January/February 2007), I would like to relate my experience with *Acacia podalyriifolia*, the Pearl Acacia. I have two 15-foot-high specimens that I water year-round, and they are doing fine in my sunny inland garden. They were planted in sandy, well-draining soil. Since sources such as the Western Garden Book do not specify the type of soil in which these acacias should be planted, it is erroneous to assume they will die if watered in the summer. If situated in well-draining soil, they might be very happy. By the looks of their gorgeous yellow candy-scented flowers, mine seem to be ecstatic.—Pat Pawlowski

Have a tip you'd like to share with *California Garden* readers? Send it to editor@sdfloral.org.

YOU'RE INVITED!
San Diego Floral Association
"Revisiting Our Past" Centennial Tea
Saturday, March 24, 2007
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Crystal Ballroom
U.S. Grant Hotel
San Diego, California
in conjunction with an Exhibition
Flower Show in the Palm Court
Friday and Saturday,
March 23-24
Visit www.sdfloral.org for details

Now is the time

AFRICAN VIOLETS

BARBARA CONRAD

- » To revitalize violets by repotting every six months with fresh soil that has been sterilized in oven or microwave.
- » To leach violets with warm water at the first sight of fertilizer salts around the rim of the pot and/or on the top of the soil.
- » To search the Internet to find commercial companies or individual growers who will sell and ship plants to you.
- » To fertilize violets with one-half the amount suggested on the label if you use "wick" watering, as it is a continuous watering system—requiring less nutrients in the well.
- » To avoid using violet fertilizers using urea as one of the ingredients. Check the label!
- » To isolate the violets from other houseplants or cut flowers to avoid infestation.

ANNUAL FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

- » To put in transplants of cabbage and eggplant.
- » To put in seeds of beans (lima, pole, snap), beets, carrots, chard, corn, cucumbers, endive, gourds, kale, lettuce (leaf), melons (cantaloupe, casaba), okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips, peas (bush), peppers, radishes, spinach (in March), squash (summer and winter), tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon.
- » To put in seeds of ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, Canterbury bells, carnations, celosia, coleus, cosmos, daisies (African), dusty miller, four o'clocks, impatiens, lobelia, marigold, morning glory, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, portulaca, salvia, scabiosa, statice, tithonia, verbena, vinca, and zinnias.

BEGONIAS

DORIS SMITH

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BEGONIA SOCIETY

- » To replenish soil. Mulch when needed.
- » To start feeding: Give one-fourth strength of a good all-purpose plant food once a week; half strength if twice a month. Full strength if once a month.
- » To keep plants moist, not too wet.
- » To start new plants from cuttings, leaves, or seeds.
- » To keep plants free of spent blossoms and leaves.

BONSAI

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB

- » To watch watering program according to the rains.
- » To graft deciduous plants.

- » To repot plants; shape to conform to the container.
- » To remember deciduous flowering plants need repotting every year, except quince. Conifers may go three to five years without repotting.
- » To add small amounts of chelated iron or acidifying preparation to correct alkaline (salt) buildup.
- » To watch for aphids and other pests.
- » To wait until April to feed. Use a high-nitrogen fertilizer for foliage growth; high-phosphorus type to set flowers and fruit.
- » To use 1/4-strength fertilizer spread several weeks apart, rather than using full-strength only once. Measure accurately. Too much fertilizer can burn roots and cause leaf damage.

BROMELIAD

MARY SIEMERS

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK

- » To start cleaning plants after their quiet winter by flushing them between the leaves and center cup. Also cut off dead leaves.
- » To check for scale; if present, treat them with Cygon #2 according to instructions on the bottle.
- » To spread snail and slug bait around the plant area.
- » To increase watering according to warmer temperatures. Make sure not to over-water the potting area, as bromeliads do not like to have soggy roots.
- » To be prepared to provide protection from the hot sun, which will soon be approaching.
- » To plan to attend the Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park show and sale on May 26th and 27th. Complete information will be in the next issue. In the meantime, visit the Bromeliad Study Group meetings, which are held the second Tuesday of each month in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104, at 7:00 p.m.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

- » To prepare plants for spring growth by checking soil and pot condition. Transplant if needed. Soil mix should be light and water should flow through freely.
- » To fertilize your plants regularly.
- » To start acclimating the protected plants to outdoor conditions once again, after the danger of frost is gone.
- » To protect sensitive plants from the rain and sun; bright sun can burn indoor plants.
- » To keep newly purchased plants separated from your collection until they show signs of good growth without any pests or disease. Treat any pest promptly (watch for snails, also). A wet

winter might bring you rodents; mice and rabbits are cute, but no cacti are safe from their nibbles. Protect your plants.

CAMELLIAS

- » To buy camellias while in bloom.
- » To pick up blooms and destroy to help control petal blight.
- » To keep watering to keep the soil moist.
- » To graft new cultivars.
- » To transplant or to increase pot sizes.
- » To enjoy your blooms!

DAHLIAS

DAVE TOOLEY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

- » To check any stored tubers you may have. Throw away any that are rotted (too much moisture is the usual cause). Conversely, any that look dry and shriveled should be given a *light* spritz of water.
- » To hot house to start tubers now if you are planning on showing at the Del Mar Fair. It will take the next number of months to get good growth and blooms.
- » To plant in your garden for summer and the Annual Dahlia Show in August. Turn over and prepare your soil now. Add manures and water in thoroughly to wash away the salts. As it looks like not much rain this year, you will have to run up your water bill!
- » To order tubers if you don't have any. The Colorado Dahlia Society (www.dahlia.net) is a very good website to search and find pictures and growers. (My apologies to those of you who are not on the Internet. Please give me a call and I will read you some pertinent information: 858 672 2593. Please leave your name and phone number if you get the machine.)
- » To meet with the Dahlia Society on the 4th Tuesday of each month in Room 101, Casa Del Prado, at 7 p.m. There is no charge. Membership and a newsletter are available for \$10 per calendar year.

EPIPHYLLUMS (ORCHID CACTUS)

GEORGE FRENCH

- » To feed epiphyllums with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.
- » To check trellis to be sure plants are well-secured.
- » To give plants filtered sunlight to encourage development of buds.
- » To bait for snails. Granules have proven effective when placed at the base of the plant. They leave little or no residue.
- » To check for drainage in April. Do not move plants at this time, but continue to feed for bloom. Use Hi-Bloom or bloom-builder type to promote healthy buds and bloom.
- » To take cuttings.

- » To remove buds from a new plant; that energy needs to go to the root system.

FERNS

BOB HALLEY

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

- » To fertilize with half strength high-nitrogen liquid or slow-release pellets.
- » To remove dead and dying fronds. Clean up plants for spring.
- » To water more frequently as most ferns are starting to grow now. Save rain water for plants that don't get it naturally. It will leach out salts.
- » To divide and repot overgrown plants as they start to grow. Top-dress others.
- » To spray for aphids, thrips, and scale. Start looking for snails and slugs. Spread bait as needed.
- » To watch for Giant White Flies. Best treated by wiping off egg spirals.
- » To sow last year's spores.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

VINCENT LAZANEO, HORT. ADVISOR, UC COOP EXTENSION

- » To irrigate when new growth begins, if the soil is not moist, to a depth of three feet.
- » To apply fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one-pound of actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.
- » To begin thinning fruit of apples, pears, and stone fruit when they are about 1/2" in size. Space fruit four to six inches apart or leave one fruit per spur. Thin early-maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late-maturing varieties.
- » To check trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical that has short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap or pyrethrin, to protect beneficial insects.
- » To keep ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper around the trunk and applying a barrier of Tanglefoot on it, or by scattering diazinon granules on the soil around the trunk.
- » To spray apples after bloom to control codling moth (wormy fruit). Apply diazinon after petals have fallen and twice more at two-week intervals.
- » To apply sulfur dust to control powdery mildew on grapes when new shoots are 6, 12, 18, and 24 inches long. Then every two weeks or as needed until harvest.

Now is the time

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTY IRIS SOCIETY

- » To start feeding low-nitrogen, all purpose, and liquid fish fertilizers.
- » To water regularly if there is no rain.
- » To clean beds and keep weeds under control.
- » To watch for pests—systemic sprays applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.
- » To give Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food—a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

HERBS

JOHN NOBLE

- » To weed and prep beds for new plantings.
- » To amend and fertilize soil.
- » To plant annual herbs after the last frost. Borage, cilantro, and dill will do better if planted by seed. Basil can be grown by seed or transplant.
- » To protect new plants from snails and slugs.
- » To harvest from our native herbs—sagebrush, Yerba mansa, white sage, black sage, elderberry . . .
- » To make fresh herbal bouquets with mint, thyme, rosemary, sage. Fresh or dried, they make great gifts for your gourmand friends.
- » To attend the Herbfest at Quail Botanical Garden on March 31 and April 1.

NATIVES

JOHN NOBLE

- » To water your native garden thoroughly. Native plants thrive on winter rains saturating the soil. This year has started out dry, dry, dry.
- » To plant minimally. March is the end of the planting season for most native plants. The exceptions being the riparian plants, which can be planted throughout the year.
- » To weed out the nonnatives (sowthistle and such).
- » To enjoy the native garden's natural spring beauty. Enjoy the brilliance of California poppies and other wildflowers.
- » To inhale the earthly fragrances of sagebrush, black sage, laurel sumac, and chaparral. Breathe in deeply the heavenly fragrances of wild lilac and woolly blue curls.

ORCHIDS

CHRISTOPHER CROOM

- » To save up money for the San Diego County Orchid Society 61st Annual Orchid Show, March 23-25 in the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley.
- » To watch for new growths and report anything needing a new pot. It is also a great time to replace any green and white moss in pots and baskets that rotted during the winter.
- » To train developing spikes, particularly amongst *Oncidium*.
- » To look for blooms on *Cattleyas*, *Cymbidiums*, *Phalaenopsis*, and developing spikes on *Dendrobiums*.
- » To begin or to increase watering for deciduous orchids as temperatures increase and plants show signs of growth.
- » To enjoy *Dendrobium* season. *Phalaenopsis* are particularly active this time of year as well.
- » To water plants more often and make sure that the increased light and temperatures don't cause sun damage. Fertilizer can be increased this time of year, too.
- » To finish all necessary repotting before temperatures get too hot.
- » To monitor any cooler-growing plants you acclimated last winter and make sure they're not getting stressed as temperatures rise.
- » To pot up keikeis (the babies) from your *Epidendrum* stems so you can make new plants to give to friends, family, or your local orchid society.

PELARGONIUMS

JIM ZEMCIK

- » To keep plants clean. Remove dead, older, and/or damaged leaves to open up the plant. This will promote new growth and protect against molds and fungi, including geranium rust on zonals. Removal of older leaves allows more light into the plant interior and will result in fuller plants with more blooms.
- » To report into larger containers, if necessary, and to pot rooted cuttings.
- » To maintain a steady water cycle. Even if conditions turn to rain, your foliage may get wet but the rain may run off of the foliage and not get into the pot. Keep your plants watered.
- » To continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use

at one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Apply on two-week intervals.

- » To continue a pest-control and disease-prevention program. This is the time of year to become proactive in guarding against geranium rust, budworm, and aphids. There are several combination products that contain both an insecticide and fungicide and will treat with one application. Follow manufacturer's recommendations and keep preventative control on a steady, continuous schedule.
- » To top-pinch any long or barren stems to promote fuller growth and increased flowering.
- » To protect plants from late season freezes. Temporary coverings may be used. Moving plants to elevated locations may help. Placing plants overnight in a protected place like the garage will help avoid or minimize foliage damage. Moving plants closer to the outside walls of the house may be beneficial.
- » To spread out plants so they have plenty of room to grow and spread. This will provide better air circulation and light, which also lessen the likelihood of pests and disease.
- » To continue to rotate plants to keep them well-shaped.

ROSES

AL HECK

- » To apply at least one inch of water twice per week to keep plants well-hydrated.
- » To start the growing season fertilizer routine. Provide half the nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium (N-P-K) by using inorganic fertilizers and half using organic fertilizers. Monthly, provide micronutrients by using Magnum Grow inorganic fertilizer.
- » To examine plants for signs of Downy Mildew, which is a mold that invades plant tissue and destroys the plant from the inside out. Signs are entire leaf sets falling off when touched; purplish blotches on canes and cane death; irregular black blotches on leaves; mysterious loss of overall plant vigor and stunted growth. Treat by alternating Aliette and Stature. Downy Mildew thrives during cool, wet periods and is inactive when daytime temperatures exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- » To control aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early morning. They are also

repelled by fresh banana peels laying at the base of the plant and are easily squished by fingers of the nonsqueamish.

- » To control thrips and rose slugs (sawfly larvae) using Conserve. Thrips hatch inside pea-size buds and distort the blooms, while rose slugs live on the underside of leaves and eat most of the leaf, leaving only its lacy-looking skeletal remains.
- » To control powdery mildew. Either wash each bush with a water spray every morning or spray with fungicides. Good control is achieved by alternating Compass and Banner Maxx, spraying every two weeks. You can also shovel-prune bushes that are susceptible and replace them with mildew-resistant plants.
- » To love and preserve beneficial insects by avoiding the use of any general pesticide like Orthene or Merit. Keeping beneficial insects alive will keep spider mites dead. If you use powerful pesticides like the two mentioned, spray only the flower buds.
- » To look for and preserve basal cane growth, which is new growth originating at or slightly above the bud union (where the blooming part of the rose was grafted to the root stock).
- » To enter your best blooms in rose shows and see how they stack up against the competition. If you have a competitive nature and want to excel, buy Robert B. Martin's book *Showing Good Roses* at www.roseshow.com.

VEGETABLES

VINCENT LAZANEO, HORT. ADVISOR, UC COOP EXTENSION

- » To prepare soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them at least two weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply 20 lbs. of poultry manure or 50 lbs. of steer manure per 100 square feet.
- » To make a last planting of cool-season vegetables, such as leaf lettuce, beets, and kohlrabi, that will mature before hot summer weather arrives.
- » To set out tomato transplants after danger of frost has past. Delay planting beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, and squash until the soil is warm. Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth.

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The Colors of Roses

ANGEL FACE*

This classic, moderately-sized Floribunda is beyond being a bloom machine. During the season, it is *never* out of bloom, although there may be the odd week when no bloom is at the right size for cutting. One of the most attractive things about Angel Face is the bloom shape, which is somewhat shallow, with scalloped/ruffled petal edges and a “camellia-like” form. The color is a warm, medium pastel mauve-lavender. In hot weather, it develops an irregular ruby red edging to the petals, a characteristic that I personally do not find all that attractive. The extraordinarily strong scent of the blossoms is an added plus—it can perfume an entire small garden. The bush is moderate in size, spreading rather than tall in form. PM is worst in spring.



Lagerfeld, it's probably one of the most fragrant of the lavender roses. It has its faults, though: The smallest bush (about 4 feet at most) is, amazingly, classed as a Grandiflora. It's quite prone to—you guessed it—PM and, like Fragrant Plum, the blooms have a tendency to ball in damp, cool springs. For anyone who prizes fragrant roses, though, Cologne is a must-have.

LAGERFELD*

This rose is one step closer to a pale, cool wisteria shade of lavender than Cologne, with which it shares a lot of characteristics—unsurprisingly, as it's one of Cologne's parents. Both bushes are of a similar size and shape, both have similarly deep-colored foliage, and both produce abundant, almost

FRAGRANT PLUM*

Not my favorite rose, except for its extraordinary fragrance. It's a true Grandiflora, easily reaching 6 feet or more, but in my garden, its height works. Its large, powerfully scented blooms are a clear, warm amethyst fading to lilac-mauve. The bush is fairly vertical and, as often as not, blooms are produced singly on long, pencil-thick stems. Mildew is less of a problem than with most lavenders, but the many-petaled blooms do tend to ball (fail to unfurl completely) in cool, damp weather.

COLOGNE*

Lavender roses can easily be divided into two color categories: the “warm” lavenders (Angel Face, Fragrant Plum), which tend toward the mauve, pinkish lilac, magenta end of the spectrum, and the “cool” lavenders, which go toward the silvery wisteria shades. Of the latter, Cologne is as close to the middle range of the spectrum as possible. It's definitely a pale but deep, silvery lilac. Particularly in cool weather, however, blooms can take on a slightly pinkish-mauve cast. The prolific, classic urn-shaped, medium-sized blooms are usually borne singly and are powerfully fragrant—along with

Lavenders and Purples

(Without going into the genetics of rose breeding, in which I'm anything but an expert, I have to make two comments about 90 percent of the roses listed below (and they are not coincidental): The lavender/purple group contains a disproportionate number of extremely fragrant roses; it also contains an exceptionally high degree of susceptibility to Powdery Mildew (PM). There are various “cures” for the latter, but you need to catch it early. In extreme cases, it not only disfigures the foliage, but can also deform buds. Usually, though, the plant suffers little damage other than aesthetic.)

ridiculously perfumed blooms. Lagerfeld seems slightly less prone to mildew than Cologne—although it's not immune by any means; it also tends to ball less often in spring. Neither of the two are big producers in hot weather, largely resting, with only a few sporadic blooms in July and August, then picking up again in the autumn. Lagerfeld's chief fault is that its exquisite, urn-shaped blooms are produced on long, floppy, droopy stems. There are two ways to deal with this: When you cut the blooms, cut back hard, fairly far down (the problem there is that by taking off so many sets of leaves, you're robbing the plant of energy, so compensate with generous feeding). The other thing you can do is to ring the plant with 3–4 foot bamboo stakes and twine plastic-coated wire around the lower third of them, creating a kind of cage, as for tomatoes. The foliage will, in time, cover much of the “hoop skirt” effect. Both Lagerfeld and Cologne have rather few thorns. If I absolutely had to choose between Lagerfeld and Cologne, I'd choose Lagerfeld since it's slightly healthier, somewhat more floriferous, and a better rose overall, but why choose?

MIDNIGHT BLUE

A unique plant, recently introduced. It was the first (and darkest) of the so-called “blue” roses, followed by Outta the Blue, Wild Blue Yonder, and Rhapsody in Blue (which seems to be the “bluest,” although not the *darkest* or most intense—I haven’t grown it yet myself). This is a scentless shrub rose, very healthy, about 4 1/2–5 feet square. It’s very well-mannered and requires just minimal winter pruning. It produces cycles of numerous clusters of true, deep purple (not the bluish purple of delphiniums, but not magenta, either), 2 1/2–3 inch blooms, which age to a deep, smoky violet. Although long-lasting on the bush, they are not suited for cutting. Very healthy, medium green foliage. Definitely a conversation piece, better in a mixed bed of perennials than in a bed devoted exclusively to roses, as it doesn’t really resemble most modern roses. To maximize the darkness and “blueness,” try about three doses of chelated iron per season and two *light* applications of aluminum sulfate (“hydrangea bluing”) just before and just as buds are forming in the spring.

NATASHA MONET

This HT has *just* enough silvery lavender in the blooms so that they can’t be called white. The lavender is more intense in cooler weather; the rare midsummer blooms are almost-but-not-quite white. They’re stunning combined in an arrangement with Stainless Steel. Bloom is plentiful in spring and autumn, with something of a summer rest period in July and August. The downside: This rose is (surprise) extremely susceptible to PM, and the blooms lack the more-or-less characteristic intense lavender rose perfume, although they’re not entirely scentless. Because of the unusual color and reliable bloom, it’s a rose worth having, but you’ve got to be on top of the mildew problem.

STAINLESS STEEL*

This was the rose breeders’ answer to Sterling Silver, and for every weakness in the latter, it substitutes a strength. In fact, this is as close to the “perfect” rose as you’ll find—if there is such a thing. It produces dozens and dozens of glorious, divinely scented, long-lasting blooms of a ghostly greyish lavender all season long. This is a *huge*, strapping, rather vertical plant. Left unchecked, it will grow to 7 or 8 feet in this climate. The first year after planting, let it grow more or less as it will, even disbudding (if you can bear to) to allow it to produce a good root system. After that, cut it back in winter to keep it more or less in check (I let mine grow to about 6 1/2 feet). Don’t be afraid to fertilize, although after the first yearly feeding (around Valentine’s Day), I tend to go to a high-phosphorous, low-nitrogen mix (15-40-15 or so). The foliage, a lovely, satiny medium green, is very healthy; remarkably little PM in my garden—where even a piece of plastic will mildew. Only moderately thorny. After all these paeans of praise, there is one thing to keep in mind: Stainless Steel tends to produce

**Indicates intense fragrance.*

multiple buds (usually three—a main one and two smaller side buds) on each bloom stem. If you want the classic, long-stemmed roses for cutting, disbud one or both of the side buds when they’re about the size of peppercorns. One other caution: In my garden, Stainless Steel is the favorite prey of earwigs, so if you value your spring blooms and notice shredded petals, bait early.

STERLING SILVER*

A rose exclusively for masochists and/or obsessives. This was the first lavender rose, and as such deserves respect, but as a plant it has been succeeded by numerous other, far better roses. The good news: The blooms are a unique shade of greyed lavender, a *slightly* more intense shade than that found in Stainless Steel, its trouble-free successor, and its unique, lemony scent is almost as intense as Angel Face, Cologne, or Lagerfeld. Now for the (very) bad news: This is a puny rose, seldom reaching 3 feet even with the best of care. It is prone to every rose disease under the sun—even occasionally blackspot, rare in SoCal, and the exquisite blooms are produced only occasionally—you can expect a maximum of a dozen blooms per season. There are always stories floating around of someone who has a thriving plant that produces dozens of blooms and is disease-free. This may account for why Sterling Silver hasn’t ever disappeared from commerce, but successes are rare and failures frequent. Since gardeners love a challenge, in addition to my pity, I advise you to give it the best of care.

Fredrik Liljeblad is a professional writer and editor who is currently working on a book, Rose Gardening in Southern California. He has gardened in San Diego for more than a dozen years, as well as in diverse climates around the world.

The roses listed in this series of articles are all roses that I either grow or have grown in my Normal Heights garden. I have found that most garden catalogs, even local ones, are impossibly vague and give nothing but praise for the roses they’re trying to flog. Here, for whatever it’s worth, is an alphabetical list of these roses which, just like people, have their strengths and weaknesses.

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, check out roses of interest by name at <http://www.helpmefind.com/roseroses.php>; clicking the photo tab at the top of the page will usually give multiple photos of the rose in bloom.

This is not a complete list, and it doesn’t give a how-to of rose care. All roses need the same main things: sun; deep, thorough, weekly watering (for in-ground roses; potted roses are a different story); good air circulation, good soil (properly amended), regular fertilizing, and proper pruning (not butchering back to three-inch stumps à la East Coast). Disease control is useful—the operative word being control, not eradication. I personally do not use any insect controls, other than to deal with earwigs in “bad” years. I find that encouraging beneficials is better than creating a chemical moonscape. The odd chewed leaf or gnawed upon bud is, for me at least, worth the alternative.

The Fertilizer Equalizer

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO USE FERTILIZER WELL ON YOUR PLANTS—WHETHER POTTED OR IN THE GROUND.

BY JIM ZEMCIK

The one thing I am most often asked about is fertilizer. How much? How often? What brand?

The good news is, unless you have a special need, or just feel the need to mix up a witches brew in your kitchen sink, fertilizers today are pretty much error-free and simple to use.

Most people grow in plastic pots. The advent of plastic pots changed almost everything about growing plants in pots. Soil mixes became mixes without soil—soil does not perform well in plastic. Over time, breeders have worked on producing smaller plants with more robust root structures to take advantage of the lighter soil-less mixes needed and the better growing conditions plastic pots provide.

Soil-less mixes created some problems when it came to fertilizers. Older fertilizers were simply various formulations of the Nitrogen-Phosphorous-Potassium (N-P-K) macronutrient basic blend. A significant balance of each resulted in what was termed a “complete” fertilizer. The micronutrients that plants needed to survive were available in the soil that was used in the older nonsealed clay pots. Today it is virtually impossible to buy a “soil mix” that actually has any soil in it. Peat moss, wood shavings, sand, perlite, vermiculite, etc.—these are the fundamentals of commercially available “soil” mix. The word *complete* in talking about fertilizer means something entirely different today.

All of the larger producers of fertilizers for the home gardeners provide formulas that are virtually identical and, if not exactly the same, the average home gardener will find the differences don't matter to any degree. They all have basic macronutrients and various combinations of trace elements (micronutrients) to help get the most out of your plants. There is no need to mix in blood meal, earthworm castings, bat guano, and the like. Today's fertilizers should be all the average gardener needs. As a result, price should be your only real concern in selecting a fertilizer. Miracle-Gro works no better or worse than Wal-Mart's private label. Only marketing draws a distinction. I grow hundreds of plants a year and my rule of thumb is “whatever is the cheapest.” No one has ever complained about the quality of my plants. This advice applies to higher acid formulations as well.

Of greater concern is how much to use and how often to use it. Most of the malnourished plants I see are a result of good intentions but little follow-through. No matter how good the fertilizer, it needs to be used in a consistent manner. I feed with a water-soluble, granulated fertilizer at every watering. I feed at one-third the recommended strength. A consistent nutrition level

gives better plant performance than quick hits of super doses. Your doctor will tell you the same thing about feeding yourself. Three smaller balanced meals a day instead of one giant one makes for a healthier you. Following this method will result in better-looking, better-blooming, more pest-resistant, and more disease-resistant plants.

And finally, what about those plants in the ground? Real soil will provide every micronutrient your plants need. Just get a bag of good old balanced N-P-K (say 15-15-15) at your local garden store and spread it every month or two. Consistency over time is the key here. The result will be healthier, more robust plants. Let price be your guide here as well.

Jim Zemcik is a geranium breeder in Point Loma with over 35 years of hobbyist and commercial growing experience.

THINGS YOU SHOULD PROBABLY AVOID: TIME-RELEASED FERTILIZER.

Sounds like a good idea, but their use can be disastrous. Most people think these fertilizers are moisture-released. They are not. They are temperature-released. One must be diligent in watering heavily during high heat periods and diligent to continue to water consistently over winter periods to flush the excess fertilizer out of the pot. Fertilizers are salts and too much salt will kill the roots and thus the plant, especially in our hard water area. There can also be a problem of knowing when to apply these fertilizers unless all of your plants are the same, year after year, with no new additions. If you are not really well disciplined, please do not try this. If you must, use them at no more than one-half the recommended dose.

ORGANIC FERTILIZERS. If you really think you are going to save the planet via fertilizer, then pass up on products labeled “organic” (your pocketbook will appreciate you for this) and go to something simple like fish emulsion. Can't get more organic than that. Use at one-third strength with every watering. Don't get concerned about the “toxicity” warnings regarding some of the trace elements you might see mentioned in an old garden book. We are talking about soil-less plant mixes here and those warnings just won't matter.



The Forgotten Color

These plants will have you seeing green.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY SABRINA ABERCROMBY

Green. It stands for environmental concern and earth-friendliness. At traffic lights, it means it's safe to proceed. It's the color of money, grass, trees, and flowers. Wait a minute . . . that doesn't sound right. Flowers?

Green is probably one of the last colors we think of when it comes to flowers. Sure, we love every color of the rainbow—red, orange, yellow, blue, purple, and countless shades in between—but green tends to be forgotten. Just pick up any color landscaping book and you're likely to see little, if any, mention of green flowers compared to all the other colors.

Surprisingly enough, quite a few plants bloom with green flowers. Some are varieties of our most popular plants. Did you know that you can find a green rose, orchid, calla lily, zinnia, daffodil, gladiolus, and chrysanthemum?

There is a large selection of flowers in almost every shade of green you can imagine: pale green, chartreuse, olive, dark green, and so on. For example, the Green Star Gladiolus shoots up spikes of refreshing lime green flowers, while the Ocean Lime Primrose grows a profusion of short yellow-green flowers, nestled against its deep, rich leaves. Another beauty is the Green Goddess Calla Lily, which looks like a painter smudged the tips of its white curving flowers with a rich, dark green.

And if you have any trouble making a choice, look out! There are even more options when you consider all of the multicolored flowers, like the Green Star Dendrobium Orchid, which has a fan of bright green outer petals that surround a deep magenta center and lip.

Coordinating Colors

Bold colors like red and orange stand out in the garden, but green tends to be more harmonious and flexible. Because it also the color of foliage, green flowers are fairly neutral and will go with most other colors.

To create a calm, tranquil area in your garden, try planting pale and soft green flowers with cream, white, blue, and lavender flowers. Or, to play up the intensity of chartreuse flowers, pair them with yellows and other vibrant colors.

You can make green flowering plants stand out by locating them near colored foliage, like coleus or caladium with their pink and red leaves. Also consider using plants of different heights. The contrast will create variety, making the flowers serve as a focal point.

Not Exactly Petals

What we think of as flower petals on some green flowers are actually something else. Here are some plants that just go to show that some flowers aren't what they seem.

THE GREEN ROSE (*ROSA CHINENSIS VIRIDIFLORA*)

This rose has been traced back to about 150 years ago and is very unusual. On a traditional rose, the sepals of the flower bud open to reveal the colorful petals inside. That's not the case here.

Instead of petals, more and more sepals appear. The finished flower consists entirely of thin, pointy green sepals.

The Green Rose tends to be disease-resistant and more tolerant of shade than other roses. It grows to about 3 feet tall and wide and produces a mild peppery scent.

BELLS-OF-IRELAND (*MOLUCCELLA LAEVIS*)

This may sound like it's from the British Isles, but its only connection with Ireland is the color green. In late summer, this Mediterranean native grows tall stalks covered with striking 1-2 inch green cups. These are calyxes—modified leaves that usually appear at the base of flowers. The true flowers are the small, mildly fragrant white flowers inside the green calyxes.

Bells-of-Ireland is a full-sun annual from the mint family. It makes an excellent specimen plant but is also suitable for the back of flower beds since it grows 18" to 3 feet tall. The green flower spikes will last a long time on the plant and as cut flowers. They can also be used in dried arrangements. The best part is that this plant is self-sowing and will return again the following year from the seeds it drops.

EUPHORBIA

Euphorbia flowers are actually leaf-like structures, called bracts. This is true of several colored "flowers" as well. For example,



Photo on previous page: cattleya orchid; this page: primula ocean lime; next page: helleborus

Green Flowers Galore

More and more green hybrids are developed every year, so it's difficult to keep track of them all. Here is a sample of some green flowering plants:

- Anthurium: "Midori"
- Bearded Iris: "Limelighter"
- Bells of Ireland
- Calla Lily: "Green Goddess"
- Cattleya Orchids: "Dressy," "Amy Chen," "Ta-Hsin," "Mendenhall," "Green Leaf"
- Chrysanthemum: There is a green spider variety
- Cymbidium Orchid: Several green varieties
- Daffodil: "St. Patrick's Day"
- Day lily: "Green Puff"
- Dendrobium Orchid: "Lakeview Apple," "Green Star"
- Euphorbia: "Characias Wulfenii," "Martini," and "Polychrome"
- Gladiolus: "Green Meadows," "St. Patrick's," "Green Bay," "Green Woodpecker," "Green Star"
- Hellebore: "Corsican," "Lenten Rose"
- Hydrangea: "Limelight"
- Kangaroo Paw: The chartreuse variety
- Nicotiana: "Saratoga lime," "Langdorffii"
- Primrose: "Ocean Lime," "Green Lace"
- Rose: "Green Rose" (*Rosa chinensis viridiflora*), "St. Patrick," "Green Diamonds," and "Green Ice"
- Tulip: "Greenland," "Evergreen," "Spring green"
- Zinnia: "Envy"

consider the poinsettia and bougainvillea. The red and pink portions that we think of as flower petals are indeed bracts. The actual flowers are the small, yellow parts located inside the center.

There are several euphorbias that bloom with green flowers, such as *Euphorbia characias wulfenii*, *Euphorbia martini*, and *Euphorbia polychrome*. Be sure to note which type of euphorbia interests you before you go shopping. It is a large, diverse genus that includes about 2,000 species, ranging from shrubs to succulents to trees. (Poinsettia and Crown of Thorns are both euphorbias). Use gloves when handling them—the sap is poisonous.

HELLEBORE

In late fall to late spring, hellebores develop clusters of cup-shaped rich green flowers with five petals. These aren't true flower petals, but sepals, which are usually located below the petals. Because sepals don't fall off like flower petals, the blossoms last a long time.

Hybrid mixes are available with white, yellow, red, pink, purple, and near-black flowers. But you can find green flowers on the Corsican species (*Helleborus arguiifolius*) and The Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*), which got its name because it forms rose-like flowers around the time of Lent.

These perennials grow from 15" to 3 feet tall and need full to part shade. They tolerate heat and humidity and tend to be pest- and disease-resistant. Be careful, though—the leaves and flowers are poisonous.

Where to Find Them

So you've decided that you'd like to add a little green to your garden. Now what? First, try your local nursery. You may find that you've been walking right past some green-flowered plants without even noticing them. This happened to me recently. I passed by a cluster of hellebores and then did a double-take. The green flowers were right there, in the same shade of green as their leaves—so subtle I almost didn't see them.

If you can't find what you are looking for, try searching the Internet. Many of these plants can be ordered online.

The Color of Success

Green represents different things to different people. Yet to most cultures around the world, it stands for nature, growth, and prosperity. What better color could there be for a flower garden?

Sabrina Abercromby is a local freelance writer and gardening enthusiast.



March/April Calendar of Events

Garfield, Carlsbad. Contact Sharon McColgan, 760-967-3856. www.californiacoastalrose.com

La Jolla Garden Club general meeting. Greg Asbagh, gardener and writer with *Tropical Gardens*, will speak. 1:00 p.m., La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd. Visitors are always welcome to the La Jolla Garden Club general meetings. Phone: 858-454-7708

March 21 | Wednesday

San Diego Camellia Society Monthly Meeting. 7:00 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Guests welcome.

March 23-24 | Friday and Saturday

★“Legacy of Creativity—A Centennial Celebration” Exhibition Flower Show presented by San Diego Floral Association. Palm Court of the U.S. Grand Hotel in downtown San Diego. 10 a.m.–7:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday; 10 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Sunday. Free. For information, call 619-232-5762 or visit www.sdfloral.org/

March 23-25 | Friday-Sunday

61st Annual Orchid Show at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley, 1895 Camino Del Rio South in San Diego. General admission \$6.00; children under 12 free. Friday, 4–9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.–p.m. Information: 619-405-0412 and www.sdorchids.com/.

March 24 | Saturday

★**Gala Afternoon Tea and Awards Ceremony**, 1:00–3:00 p.m. Crystal Ballroom, U.S. Grant Hotel, downtown San Diego. \$55. For information, call 619-232-5762 or visit www.sdfloral.org/

Designing Landscapes with Native Plants at the Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Discover the variety of California native plants with Yvette Anderson, landscape designer with California's Own Native Landscape Design, owned by Greg Rubin. Learn the proper care and placement of drought-tolerant natives and get ideas for designing your own home garden. Members \$7, nonmembers \$10. Please preregister: 10-student minimum to hold class. For information, www.thegarden.org.

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Spring Lawn Care at 9:00 a.m., Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego; and class on Spring Flowers at 9:30 a.m. in Poway at 12755 Danielson Ct. Questions, call 619-224-8271 (Pt. Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway). Free. www.walterandersen.com/

March 28 | Wednesday

Mission Hills Garden Club Panel Discussion on “Community Garden: What's Ahead for Mission Hills? A panel discussion to explore interest in a community garden.” Phillip Dewitler, Mission Hills librarian; Heidi Behnke, Golden Hills Community Garden; Cheryl Gaidmore, Mission Hills Garden Club. Meeting at United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street. Free to Garden Club members, \$10 for guests. 6:00 p.m. social; 6:30 meeting. For information, call 619-255-2110 or check www.missionhillsgardenclub.org/

March 31 | Saturday

Kids Are for the Birds! (Ages 7–12) at the Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Garden docent Sue Ellen Benson leads you on a bird-

watching, binocular-wearing adventure. Includes a short hike through the Discovery Trail and decoration of your own bird feeder. This class is offered in partnership with Cuyamaca College's Community Learning Program. For information and to register, call 619-660-4350 or visit www.cuyamaca.edu/preview. Class fee: \$25; includes a light snack.

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Ornamental Trees for San Diego at 9:00 a.m., Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego; and class on Citrus & Varieties Care at 9:30 a.m. in Poway at 12755 Danielson Ct. Questions, call 619-224-8271 (Pt. Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway). Free. www.walterandersen.com/

March 31 and April 1 Saturday and Sunday **Quail Botanical Gardens** Herb Festival, with Spring Plant Sale and Tomatomania. The 11th Annual Herb Festival will take place at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas, California. The spring Plant Sale and Tomatomania will also take place. The event is free with the price of admission and free for members. General admission fees are \$10 for nonmembers and free for members. Seniors, students, and active military are \$7. Children under 12 are \$5 and children age 2 and under are free. For more information, contact Quail Botanical Gardens at 760-436-3036, x206 or visit www.qbgardens.org.

April 1 | Sunday

Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget. Landscape Designer Jan Tubiolo takes the mystery out of xeriscape landscaping and shows you why xeriscape is not “Zeroscape”! Learn the seven principles of xeriscape, plant selection, and planting techniques. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. \$10 members, \$13 nonmembers. Please preregister: 10-student minimum to hold class. www.thegarden.org.

April 2 | Monday

Palomar District Floral Design Forum. Flower Power: Beat the Clock. 12:30 p.m., The Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St. in Carlsbad. \$8 or \$45 for a series of eight sessions October through May. Velma West, 760-747-6615, or Deedee Speer, 760-749-9608, for information.

Quail Botanical Gardens Children's event—Lunch with Bunny. 10–11:30 a.m. Preschoolers and their parents are invited to visit our gentle bunny. The children will make a bunny basket, pot a spring flower, and participate in a bunny parade and egg hunt. Cost: \$10 plus regular admission fee. Preregistration required—space is limited. Call 760-436-3036, x206. General admission fees are \$10 for nonmembers and free for members. Seniors, students, and active military are \$7. Children under 12 are \$5 and children age 2 and under are free. For more information, contact Quail Botanical Gardens at 760-436-3036, x206 or visit www.qbgardens.org/.

April 6 | Friday

Carlsbad Garden Club Field Trip to Tropic World and Plant World, large nurseries in Escondido. 9 a.m.–lunch. For details, call 760-931-9863 or www.carlsbadgardenclub.org/.

April 11 | Wednesday

Ramona Garden Club Master Gardener Suzie Heap will speak on

growing bamboo. Refreshments, plant swap table, and opportunity drawings. Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main St. For more information, call 789-8880 or visit www.ramonaclub.com/

Bonita Valley Garden Club. Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony. Presentation on “Cool Tools—Useful Garden Tools and Supplies” by member Sue Hauwiler. Bonita/Sunnyside Library, Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita. 9:30 a.m. hospitality: 10:00 a.m. meeting. Call 619-934-6363 for information or visit www.bonitavalleygardenclub.org/.

April 12-15 | Thursday-Sunday

Art Alive 2007. Display of floral arrangements inspired by artworks from the San Diego Museum of Art. Open to the public from Friday, April 13–Sunday, April 15. The extensive schedule also includes a members' only preview on April 12, a floral demonstration by Belgian designer Nico De Swert on Friday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m., a master class with designer De Swert on Saturday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m., a luncheon, a “Young Art Alive,” a floral arranging class for children 8–12, and other events. For full details, call the museum at 619-232-7931 or visit www.sdmart.org.

April 13-15 | Friday-Sunday

★**Sneak Preview: Featuring The Garden Stars.** 18th annual judged flower show. Experience the beauty of nature and artistry combined at this unique flower show, presented by The San Diego Garden Club and Quail Botanical Gardens. Flower show entry forms will be available at Quail Botanical Gardens. General admission fees apply to view the flower show and gardens. Free admission for flower show participants. For more information, please call event chair Jerry Thirloway at 858-755-3284 or visit <http://sdgc.klmmicro.com>. For information on admission fees, contact Quail Botanical Gardens at 760-436-3036, x206 or visit www.qbgardens.org

San Diego Geranium Society Monthly Meeting. 7:00 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Special speaker, refreshments, and a raffle table. Free. Information: Jim Budlove, president, 619-287-6299.

April 14 | Saturday

17th Annual Spring Home Gardening Seminar put on by the Master Gardener Association of San Diego County and the University of California Cooperative Extension. University of San Diego, 5995 Linda Vista Rd., San Diego. Preregistration will be held between late January and April 3, 2007. There will be no registration the day of the seminar. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.mastergardenerssandiego.org and mailed to MG Seminar, 5555 Overland Ave., San Diego CA 92123 any time before April 3. 858-694-2860

Magee Garden Clinic. 9:00 a.m. 2650 Gardfield, Carlsbad. Dr. Joel Ross, Topic: Safe Transport of Cut Roses to Shows and a Toolbox for Grooming Cut Roses. www.californiacoastalrose.com

Fire Safety Clinic for Home and Garden: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.: Fireescaping with Native Plants; 12–1 p.m.: San Miguel Fire District Firefighters and Fire Engine at the Garden; 12–2 p.m.: Home Fire

Calendar listings continue on p. 32

March 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Carlsbad Garden Club Program on "Division and Propagation of Plant Materials"	3 Native Plant Sale at Tree of Life Nursery, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Magee Garden Clinic, 9:00 a.m. Gardening Nature's Way, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Indoor Plants for You, 9:00 a.m. Container Gardening, 9:30 a.m.
4	5 Palomar District Floral Design Forum	6 Op-Art Workshop, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	7	8	9	10 Nature Writing: Bringing the Wild Close to Home, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Trees in the Water Conserving Landscape Spring Vegetables, 9:00 a.m. Orchid Care, 9:30 a.m.
11	12 San Diego Horticulture Society Meeting: Wildscaping Your Garden, 6:00 p.m.	13 San Diego Floral Association Workshop on Basket Weaving or Coiling Pines Needles to Make a Basket, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	14 Point Loma Garden Club Monthly Meeting, 10 a.m.-noon Ramona Garden Club Meeting	15 Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	16 Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	17 Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. California Friendly Plant Sale Festival of Trees, 10-11:30 a.m. General Orchid Care, 9:00 a.m. Spring Rose Care, 9:30 a.m. Flower and Japanese Culture Show, Spring Exhibition
18 Flower and Japanese Culture Show, Spring Exhibition—Celebrating 39 Years, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	19 San Diego Rose Society Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	20 San Diego Floral Association Workshop on Creative Line Designs, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. California Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting California Coastal Rose Society General Meeting La Jolla Garden Club Meeting	21 San Diego Camellia Society Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	22	23 "Legacy of Creativity—A Centennial Celebration," 10 a.m.-7:00 p.m. 61st Annual Orchid Show at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley, 4-9 p.m.	24 "Legacy of Creativity—A Centennial Celebration" Gala Afternoon Tea and Awards Ceremony 61st Annual Orchid Show Designing Landscapes with Native Plants Spring Lawn Care Spring Flowers
25 61st Annual Orchid Show at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley	26	27	28 "Community Garden: What's Ahead for Mission Hills?" 6:00 p.m.	29	30	31 Kids Are for the Birds! 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ornamental Trees for San Diego, 9:00 a.m. Citrus & Varieties Care, 9:30 a.m. Quail Botanical Gardens Herb Festival

April 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Quail Botanical Gardens Herb Festival Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	2 Palomar District Floral Design Forum, 12:30 p.m. Lunch with Bunny, 10-11:30 a.m.	3	4	5	6 Carlsbad Garden Club Field Trip to Tropic World and Plant World, 9 a.m.-lunch	7
8	9	10	11 Ramona Women's Club featuring Suzie Heap Bonita Valley Garden Club Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony, 9:30 a.m.	12 Art Alive 2007, Members' only preview	13 Art Alive 2007 "Sneak Preview: Featuring The Garden Stars" San Diego Geranium Society Monthly Meeting Spring Home Gardening Seminar Magee Garden Clinic Fire Safety Clinics at the Water Conservation Garden	14 Art Alive 2007 "Sneak Preview: Featuring The Garden Stars" San Diego Geranium Society Monthly Meeting Spring Home Gardening Seminar Magee Garden Clinic Fire Safety Clinics at the Water Conservation Garden
15 Art Alive 2007 "Sneak Preview: Featuring The Garden Stars" San Diego Geranium Society Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	16 San Diego Rose Society Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	17 San Diego Floral Association Quarterly Meeting, 6 p.m. California Native Plant Society General Meeting California Coastal Rose Society General Meeting La Jolla Garden Club General Meeting, 1:00 p.m.	18 San Diego Camellia Society Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	19	20	21 Plant Propagation Made Easy Dos Valles Garden Club 27th Annual Standard Flower Show Greenscene Plant Sale and Garden Show Special members-only preview sale from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
22 Dos Valles Garden Club 27th Annual Standard Flower Show, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Greenscene Plant Sale and Garden Show, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	23	24	25 Ikebana Demonstration and Workshop, 10:00 a.m.	26	27	28 Spring Bamboo Sale 81st Annual Coronado Flower Show, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
29 81st Annual Coronado Flower Show, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	30					

March Calendar of Events

March 2 | Friday

Carlsbad Garden Club Program on "Division and Propagation of Plant Materials" by Una Tyler and Donna Coscia from Anderson's La Costa Nursery, 1–3 p.m. 2650 Garfield Street, Carlsbad. Garden-related materials for sale and light refreshments. Free. 760-931-9863 or www.carlsbadgardenclub.org/

March 3 | Saturday

Native Plant Sale at Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., 33201 Ortega Highway, 7 miles east of San Juan Capistrano. Enter at the green gate on the north side of the highway. For more information, contact Tree of Life Nursery, www.treecoffeenursery.com or 949-728-0685. Free talks: 11:00 a.m., Habitat Gardening with Native Plants by Connie Beck; 2:00 p.m., Native Plants for Butterflies by Pat Pawlowski. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) members will be available to help choose plants and give free native plant gardening advice. Some of the proceeds benefit the San Diego Chapter of CNPS. www.cnpsd.org/ Magee Garden Clinic presented by California Coastal Rose Society at 9:00 a.m. The topic will be soil ecology/fertilizers/mulch. 2650 Garfield, Carlsbad. <http://www.californiacoastalrose.com/>

Gardening Nature's Way, a class in organic gardening, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. This class is offered in partnership with Cuyamaca College's Community Learning Program. For information and to register, call 619-660-4350 or visit www.thegarden.org. Class fee: \$25. Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Indoor Plants for You at 9:00 a.m., Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego; and class on Container Gardening, 9:30 a.m. in Poway at 12755 Danielson Ct. Questions, call 619-224-8271 (Pt. Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway). Free. www.walterandersen.com

March 5 | Monday

Palomar District Floral Design Forum. Designs will be presented by The Talented Ladies from Ensenada, 12:30 p.m., The Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street in Carlsbad. \$8 or \$45 for a series of eight sessions October through May. Velma West, 760-747-6615 or Deedee Speer, 760-749-9608 for information.

March 6 | Tuesday

★Op-Art. San Diego Floral Association Workshop on Abstract or Stretch Design. Teacher: Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher. Bring flowers, containers, clippers, and a sandwich. Cost: \$20. 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, contact the Association at 619-232-5762. Workshop limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

March 10 | Saturday

Nature Writing: Bringing the Wild Close to Home. Teacher: nature writer Jan Daniels, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. This class is offered in

partnership with Cuyamaca College's Community Learning Program. For information and to register, call 619-660-4350 or visit www.thegarden.org. Class fee: \$30.

Trees in the Water Conserving Landscape Celebrate California's Arbor Week (March 7-14) with local certified arborist Leah Rotke for a crash course all about trees. Class includes viewing and discussing trees at the Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 1–3 p.m. \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers. Please preregister: 10-student minimum to hold class. For information and to register, call 619-660-4350 or visit www.thegarden.org. Class fee: \$30. Walter Andersen Nursery class on Spring Vegetables at 9:00 a.m., Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego; and class on Orchid Care with Special Guests, 9:30 a.m. in Poway at 12755 Danielson Ct. Questions, call 619-224-8271 (Pt. Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway). Free. www.walterandersen.com

March 12 | Monday

San Diego Horticulture Society Meeting. Chris and Trish Meyer will discuss Wildscaping Your Garden. 6:00 p.m., Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar. Includes Plant Forum, where plant experts will answer questions about plants brought in by the audience. Opportunity drawing featuring plants. Free admission and parking. 760-295-7089 or www.sdhortsoc.org for more information.

March 13 | Tuesday

★San Diego Floral Association Workshop on Basket Weaving or Cutting Pines Needles to Make a Basket. Teachers: Kathy and Marie Walsh. Cost: \$20. 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, contact the Association at 619-232-5762. Workshop limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid. San Diego Geranium Society General Meeting. Program will include tips on making wooden containers to display various types and sizes of geraniums and pelargoniums. Each member receives a plant of the month. Visitors and members have the opportunity to win plants and cuttings through a raffle. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park. Free.

March 14 | Wednesday

Point Loma Garden Club Monthly Meeting: 10 a.m. to noon, Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA 92106. Speaker is Liz Youngflesh, owner of Garden Glories Nursery in Vista and expert on the growing and care of alstroemerias and many other ornamental plants. Information: 619-223-3315 or www.plgc.org/ Ramona Garden Club. Speaker to be announced. Refreshments, plant swap table, and opportunity drawings. Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street. Visitors welcome. For more information, call 789-8880 or visit www.ramonagardenclub.com/

March 15-18 | Thursday-Sunday

Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale. Over 150 varieties of tomato plants and 85 varieties of pepper plants for sale. Largest tomato and pepper plant sale in Southern California. Time: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

all days. Free admission and parking. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA. www.arboretum.fullerton.edu/

March 17 | Saturday

California Friendly Plant Sale at the Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Vendors from throughout San Diego County selling a variety of water-wise plants for your drought-tolerant garden. Gardening clubs and lecturers will provide gardening information. Vendors will sell garden pottery and worm castings, and The Solana Center for Environmental Innovation will host a compost workshop (1:00–2:00 p.m.) and sell compost bins at reduced rates for residents of unincorporated areas. Entry information and signups for San Diego County's Fourth-Annual California-Friendly Landscape Contest will be available. For information, www.thegarden.org.

Quail Botanical Gardens Children's event: Festival of Trees Preschoolers will celebrate nature using materials from the garden. Special snack, creative activities, and lots of fun. 10–11:30 a.m. Cost: \$10 plus regular admission fee. Preregistration required—space is limited. Call 760-436-3036, x206.

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on General Orchid Care at 9:00 a.m., Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego; and class on Spring Rose Care, 9:30 a.m. in Poway at 12755 Danielson Ct. Questions, call 619-224-8271 (Pt. Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway). Free. www.walterandersen.com/

March 17-18 | Saturday and Sunday

Flower and Japanese Culture Show. Spring Exhibition—Celebrating 39 Years. 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. The Culture Show will be on Sunday only, but demonstrations of Ikebana will be given both days.

March 19 | Monday

San Diego Rose Society Monthly Meeting. Program to be announced. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. 7:00 p.m. Consulting Rosarian Corner with Phil Ash. Bring your questions. 7:30 p.m. meeting/program begins. For more information, visit www.sdrosesociety.org/

Tuesday | March 20

★San Diego Floral Association Workshop on Creative Line Designs. Prepare for Flower Show at U.S. Grant. Teacher: Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher. Bring flowers, containers, clippers, and a sandwich. Cost: \$20. 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, contact the Association at 619-232-5762. Workshop limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid. California Native Plant Society monthly meeting. Ken Bowles will talk about Wildflower Species Identification. 7 p.m. Casa Del Prado, Room 104, Balboa Park, San Diego. California Coastal Rose Society General Meeting. 6:15 p.m., "Rose-a-Holics" led by Dr. Joel Ross. "To spray or not to spray and with what?" 7:00 p.m., Special Guest Speakers: Clay and Jeri Jennings on Old Garden Roses. Heritage Hall at Magee Park, 2650

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Entry Deadline is April 13

The Art of *flower* Arranging

PHOTOS COURTESY PALOMAR DISTRICT FLORAL DESIGN FORUM

A CRASH COURSE IN A CENTURIES-OLD PRACTICE.

BY VELMA WEST

Flower design is a popular and widely recognized art form using the elements and principles found in every aspect of art. It is a form of sculpture produced by assembling plant material in a three-dimensional composition. Flower arrangers come in all types and stages. For those who belong to garden clubs, attend classes and demonstrations, or compete in shows, designing with flowers is a way of life. To others, it is a wonderful hobby for decorating the home. To a great number, it is a thriving business.

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

The elements of floral design are line, color, size, space, texture, light, form, and pattern, all of which are provided in plant material. Elements of floral design are tangible. We can touch them. *Line* is the basic framework of the design. The line determines the visual path, which may be vertical, horizontal, angular, straight, short, tall, curved, or zigzagged. It may be thin or thick. *Color* has a full spectrum of hues. *Chroma* is the degree of intensity; *hue* is the fullness of intensity of a color; *tint* is the result of adding white to a hue; and a *shade* results when black is added to pure color. Color is stimulating and inspiring. Flowers are living examples of fine color harmonies. *Size*, as it relates to floral design, is concerned with the visual size of one component compared to another. A large component next to a small component makes the small one appear visually smaller. A light color next to a dark color appears visually larger. Smooth, shiny texture makes an object appear larger than a dull texture. *Space* in a floral design is not a void but is a living area of cubic air. In addition to the space occupied by components of the design, total space refers to the spatial dimensions of where the design is placed or staged. Grooming or pruning the material to make it more compatible may alter the space occupied by plant material. *Texture* is the visual variation of surface structure such as dull/shiny, coarse/light, and smooth/coarse. *Light*, either natural or artificial, is necessary for vision, shadow, and color. *Form* is the two- or three-dimensional contour of individual parts and components. *Pattern* is the combination of lines, forms, and spaces of plant

materials used in floral design. Also, the juxtaposition of colors of plant materials in a design creates another type of pattern.

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

The principles of design are balance, rhythm, dominance, contrast, proportion, and scale. These are the means by which components of the elements are applied to the design. The principles of design are intangible. They are the manner in which components are arranged. *Balance* is the placement of materials to create visual, as well as physical, balance. *Rhythm* is a dominant visual path through a design suggesting action or motion. *Dominance* is the strongest force in the use of one or more of the elements. That element should be evident at once. Bold forms, bright colors, or repetition help achieve dominance. *Contrast* occurs with related elements, such as soft/hard, smooth/rough, pale/dark, round/spiked. Too much contrast, however, can divide the viewer's attention. *Proportion* is the relationship of one material to another, as well as the size of the floral

design in proportion to the locale where the design is staged. *Scale* has to do with size; such as the size of one object compared to another; the size of the flower to the size of the container; the size of one flower to another; or the size of the design in relationship to the size of the space where it is staged.

Tools of the trade include the containers that hold the floral components and mechanics to keep the components securely attached in the container. Necessary equipment includes shears, clippers, scissors, paring knife, glue gun, wire cutters, hardware cloth, and floral tape. Basically, anything that holds water can be used to hold a floral design.

Containers may be, for example, tall, flat, fat, baskets, or shells. They may be contrived, cheap, or expensive. But the container, the floral components, and the mechanics must be compatible for the success of a specified design. Good mechanics are basic to establishing a good design. Equipment for success includes floral foam (Oasis), small birdcage wire, kenzans (spike or needlepoint holders), cup holders, and floral tape.

Plant material is best picked in the early morning or late afternoon and plunged into water. After it is brought in, it should be recut and, within three seconds, plunged into fresh water containing a floral preservative. After several hours, the plant material will be "hardened" and ready for arranging. Different varieties may need special handling for best conditioning.

Good Floral Design

- Uses plant material to provide the basic elements of design: line (framework), color (which is intrinsic to flowers), size (visual size), space (as occupied by components), texture, light (required for vision, shadow, and color), form (three-dimensional contour), and pattern (the combination of line, form, and space).
- Follows the intangible principles of design: balance (both visual and physical), rhythm (or visual path), dominance (of one or more elements), contrast, proportion, and scale.
 - Requires basic tools of the trade.
 - Uses conditioned plant material.
 - May be traditional or creative.

DESIGNING

Floral design is a respected art form that has developed over the centuries. Historians and archeologists agree that cut flowers in containers date back for many centuries. A visit to any art museum will attest to the importance of flowers in art. Chinese artifacts show that, during the Tang dynasty, water-filled containers were used on altars in temples. Symbolic meanings of plant material were an important part of the Chinese use of plant material. Pear, peach, and bamboo symbolized long life; white plum blossoms represented winter; peach and cherry blossoms heralded spring; lotus depicted summer; and the chrysanthemum signaled fall.

Buddhists from China introduced their religion and flower-arranging skills to Japan about the 6th century A.D. An Ikebana book, *The Art of Flower Arranging*, dates back to 1445. Several schools of Japanese design, each with a headmaster, have developed over the years. Today, Japanese designs range from traditional to creative. They are basically asymmetrical and typically show restraint in the use of plant materials. Simplicity and beauty are outstanding features of their art. Oriental floral designing has had a dynamic influence on Western design in the United States.

Most European paintings show large masses of flowers and foliage, which nearly overflowed the containers. Within a composition, spring flowers were mixed with fall blooms or fruits of spring were painted with flowers of fall. Historically, European floral designs fall into the following periods: Classic Greek & Roman (600 B.C.–325 A.D.), Italian Renaissance (14–16th centuries), and Dutch/Flemish (17th and 18th centuries) or the French period (also during the 17th and 18th centuries). The Georgian period of the 18th and early 19th centuries was followed by the Victorian period of the 19th century. Each of these periods surely influenced the next and is an important part of our floral heritage.

AMERICAN DESIGNS

Times were difficult for the colonists. Fewer plant materials were available in comparison to what they had known in Europe. In the Colonial period (17th century), the bouquets

were arranged in any available container, often combining dried plant material, scented herbs, and fresh floral material. In Colonial Williamsburg (1720–1780), the designs were generally fan-shaped. Containers themselves were often fan-shaped and are still available in Williamsburg. The overall effect was one of elegance. Wheat and barley, fresh and dried, or grasses were incorporated with floral material. Other containers used in this period, English in style, were bronze, pewter, silver, and porcelain. In the Federal Period (late 18th and early 19th centuries), the style emphasized mass designs with formal (symmetrical) balance, taller than wide, influenced more by the French than the English. The mass design components were chosen for color harmony rather than contrast. A variety of different flowers, usually soft colors, were used in a formal, relatively open design. In the 19th century, the American Victorian style followed the European Victorian designs. Lavish use of flowers in ornate containers was later followed by oversimplification—a glass container with a few roses and some ornamental ferns. Early 20th-century American design took hold in the early 1930s. There was a great change in floral design toward its use as a creative outlet. The garden club movement began to utilize floral designs. Oriental line designs and European mass designs triggered a new style known as line and line-mass, which are popular today.

LINE DESIGNS

These designs may be described as vertical or horizontal, curved, circle, zigzag, angle, or mass. In fact, *every* design has a line, most often visually strong. However, some lines may be subtle. The line is the backbone of a design upon which other components are superimposed. In a *traditional line design*, the set linear pattern is dominant, there is an open silhouette, and restraint is shown in the use of plant material. A *traditional line-mass design* is similar to the above, except that additional plant material is used at the rim of the container to enhance and strengthen the line. This creates a center of interest. *Creative line designs* and *creative line-mass designs* evolved in the mid- to late 20th century. These creative designs use forms and



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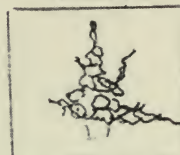


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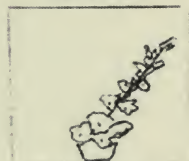
shapes in original ways, expressing the ideas of the floral artist while still adhering to the principles of design outlined above.



SYMMETRICAL
TRIANGLE



ASYMMETRICAL
TRIANGLE



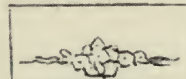
ANGULAR



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Floral art from the professional florist, the garden club, and the individual continues to become more creative. Each decade since the 1930s has seen a greater variety of plant material available and used to express a feeling, make a statement, enhance an occasion, or create an idea. The National Council of State Garden Clubs, which was established in 1929 and has grown to have members in every state, is now an international organization. Through this organization, floral design has become competitive and national ribbons are given to garden clubs that utilize the National Council's guidelines for Standard Flower Shows. *The Handbook for Flower Shows* currently lists at least 38 descriptions of Traditional and Creative Designs.

Velma West has retired as a teacher, flower show judge, and protea grower. She currently leads workshops for San Diego Floral Association on various traditional and creative aspects of floral design.

Annual Herbs in the Garden

What to pick and when to pick it in our climate.

BY JOHN NOBLE

PHOTOS BY JODI SHAGG (NASTURTIUM FLOWERS SCREENING A FENCE;
BORAGE FLOWERS; EDIBLE BLUE STAR-SHAPED BORAGE FLOWER)



Anual herbs include anise, basil, cilantro, and dill. These are some of the many culinary and medicinal herb plants that, although they live briefly on the planet, their flavors seem to linger in our mouths and minds eternally.

Annuals are the plants that go from seed to maturity within a year's time. The biennial herbs, like burdock, parsley, and mullein, take two years to grow, create seed, and die. Perennials such as lavender, mints, rosemary, and thyme can live for many years.



Design-wise, annuals should be planted in either your vegetable beds or your mixed annual flowerbeds. They will naturally die by the end of the year, and the ground can then be turned over and prepped for another planting. Annual herbs

also do well grown in pots. A sunny patio by the kitchen is an ideal location.

In your landscape, use the perennial herbs for structure. They will be around for a while. Rosemary, germander, and lavender make great hedges. Thyme is a great groundcover. But do not plant perennials in your vegetable garden. They tend to take over, and then turning the soil and prepping the bed becomes a challenge.

Springtime is generally the best time to plant most annuals, but not all annual herbs are cold-sensitive. In San Diego's Mediterranean climate, some annual herbs start growing in late fall or during the winter months. Calendula is perhaps one of the best examples of a cool weather annual. It will grow from October or November, through the spring and

then it will usually finish the season on the first hot dry day of June or July.

The winters here can feel more like spring than winter to many people. A lot of plants feel this way too. All plants have unique capabilities and timetables, and they are affected by both the climate and the hours of sunlight. We can only guess what tomorrow's weather will be and what we will be able to grow.

March is generally a good time to start planting the cold-sensitive annual herbs, such as basil and dill. Of course, weed, amend, and feed the soil. Wait until after the last frost date before planting cold-sensitive seeds or young transplants into your garden.

Here are some popular herbs with some descriptive notes and some tips for successfully growing them.

Anise (*Pimpinella anisum*) is a Mediterranean herb good for digestion. The leaves and seeds taste like licorice. It is related to and often confused with fennel, which has naturalized in San Diego.

Basil is probably the most popular culinary plant grown in the garden. There are many varieties offered at the nurseries. Sweet basil is the favorite and the kind used to make pesto. Other varieties are good for flavoring soups, sauces, and salads. There is one beautiful cultivar named African Blue Basil. It has colorful red-purple stems and, surprisingly for a basil, it is a perennial.

Sweet Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) is a good example of a cold-sensitive annual. You can start growing it in early spring, after the last frost, and it will grow until a cold November or December night comes along. The next day, the whole plant turns brown or black.

Basil can be grown from seed or planted as a start. Be aware, snails and slugs love basil. Young plants often disappear overnight.

Strongly protect your plants until they are about six or eight inches high. Try hand-picking, beer traps, or copper bands to control the slimy army. As the plant matures, snails seem to do minimal damage.



To learn more about herbs, attend the annual herb festival at Quail Botanical Gardens on March 31 and April 1. There will be many great speakers throughout both days.

Black Cumin (*Nigella sativa*) is a beautiful ancient medicinal plant. The seeds have been used as a panacea for thousands of years. Modern research shows many health benefits.

Cayenne Pepper (*Capsicum annum*) is a hot condiment. Cayenne is great for blood circulation. It grows well in the heat of the summer. Grow cayenne from seeds or starts. Plant after the soil warms up.

Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) is one of the trickier herbs to grow. It seems to have a small window of opportunity to grow. It does not transplant well. Plant the seed directly in the garden in early spring. Hopefully, you will have a healthy patch of dill for three to five months.

German Chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*) is the tall annual chamomile. It grows best from seed. The Roman Chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobilis*) is the low-growing perennial groundcover.

Summer Savory (*Satureja hortensis*) is another Mediterranean culinary and digestive herb. It has a sweet aroma.

Fortunately, you still have an opportunity to plant the cool-weather annuals. The weather is still cool enough to get them going.

Arugula (*Eruca sativa*) easily grows from seed. Arugula is related to mustard and it will reseed. The leaves are flavorful in salads. Don't plant it if you live near a native canyon. It may invade native landscapes.

Borage (*Borago officinalis*) grows best if planted directly into a garden. The leaves and flowers make a delightful tea. The blue star-shaped flowers are a wonderfully edible treat.

Calendula (*Calendula officinalis*) can be grown from seed or planted from six packs. The orange and yellow marigold flowers can be showy for six months. The flower petals can be added to baths.

Chervil (*Anthriscus cerefolium*) is related to parsley and is tasty. It grows well in cool shaded areas.

Cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*) is a plant with two culinary names. Cilantro refers to the lacy green leaves popular in Mexican cooking. The same plant produces coriander seeds. Plant seeds directly into the ground.

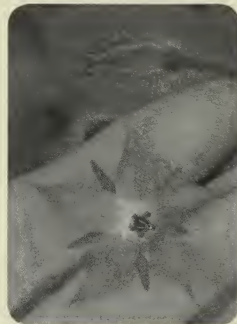
Mustard (*Brassica nigra*) is the invasive wild mustard that grows throughout California. No one really needs to plant this. It has been an easy herb to find ever since the padres first planted it.

Nasturtium (*Trapaeolum majus*) is an easy growing plant with spicy tasting round leaves and spicy tasting edible yellow orange or red flowers. Grows easily from seed. Nasturtium will reseed.

Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) is the plant that makes the poppy seeds used in baking and the opium used for its strong narcotic effect. It grows well from seed. Harvesting the opium is illegal. The California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) also serves as a medicinal sedative.

Please go into your garden and find some place where you can plant some of these culinary and medicinal plants. They will give back to you for your effort. It doesn't take a long time. The earth will continue its slow rotation around the sun. By the time we reach the winter solstice, these powerful plants will have parented their next generation. Please don't eat all the seeds. Thank you.

John Noble is the owner of Coastal Sage Gardening and Botany for Kids, as well as cofounder of In Harmony Herbs and Spices.



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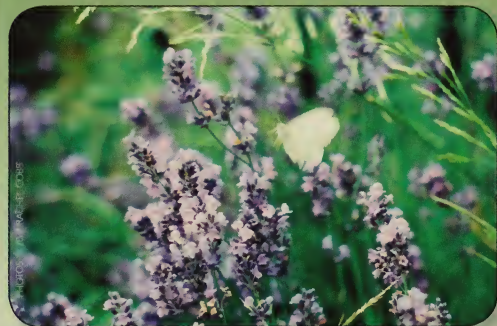
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Going to Extremes

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

ROBUST CALIFORNIA NATIVES WILL SURVIVE

First it was too hot.
Then it was too cold.
What's with the weather?

And, more importantly, what are the extreme temperature fluctuations doing to plants in the garden?

Inland, while the summer heat was bad (115 degrees), only a few of my plants were cooked by the heat this past summer. I remember the hottest day, when I stood outside (not for very long) and thought to myself: I wish it was cold.

Well, I got my wish in mid-January.

I knew it was bad the morning after the first freezing night, when I watched a clueless mourning dove sidle over to the small birdbath top placed on the ground, his little beak going *bonk* as it came in contact with solid ice.

How are the plants taking all this? I wondered and went out to see.

It was enough to make a gardener cry.

Spicy *jatropha*, an exotic plant beloved by butterflies, was the first casualty. In addition, the *plectranthus* perished, the *lantana*

languished, and the *pentas* cashed in its chips. All of the plants that died were from other parts of the world where frost never occurs. Confronted with air as icy as a popsicle, they croaked.

On the other hand, the coffeeberry, oaks, monkeyflowers, and all my other California natives seemed to be resting comfortably.

ENLIGHTENMENT

It was then that I realized California native plants can kick assorted cold and hot temperatures! As Gloria Gaynor sang, I will survive! I will survive!

That's what my natives say.

In all fairness, coastal gardens with their generally more moderate temperatures are a bit more hospitable to plants both imported and native; however, if you live in an area susceptible to more extreme temps—or if you want to encourage a larger variety of birds and butterflies—you might like to consider planting California natives instead of exotics.

DON'T DESPAIR

This is your lucky day! There is still time to plant natives. Indeed, some landscape designers say it is possible to plant California natives year-round. This may be true, but going by last summer's heat wave, I'd say that if you live inland, it's better to do your planting before it gets too hot again.

If you are having trouble finding nurseries that sell a nice selection of native plants, here's a tip: On March 3, the California Native Plant Society is holding a sale at Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. There will be lots of greenery to goggle at and some gardening speakers to listen to. And if you can't make the sale on the 3rd, you can visit Tree of Life some other time. Additional places that specialize in natives are Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido and Rancho Jojoba in Lakeside. In addition, call your local nursery and ask if they carry natives. If they say no, ask why not.

Following is a list of plants that won't faint at the first sign of real weather. They are survivors. There are many more that I could list, but these are some of my favorites. Most are drought-tolerant and can withstand some extreme temperatures and talk radio.

THE DIRTY DOZEN

You've got the dirt—here is what to put in it:

Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.)—As a loyal subject of the monarch butterfly, milkweed is always on the top of any plant list I make. Milkweed is a perennial on which monarch females lay their eggs. If you want to attract the most monarchs possible, you need this plant. The favorite milkweed for monarchs in this area is bloodflower milkweed, native to Mexico, which as we all know is pretty close to the U.S. Other milkweeds include California milkweed (*A. californica*), narrowleaf milkweed (*A. fascicularis*), Indian milkweed (*A. eriocarpa*), and desert milkweed (*A. erosa*).

Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*)—A large evergreen shrub with handsome green leaves and dark berries that taste a bit like coffee, if you haven't had coffee for at least 20 years.

Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*)—Tall evergreen shrub with rich green leaves, can be trained as tree, relatively fast-growing. Drink made from berries can taste a bit like lemonade, if you haven't had lemonade for at least 20 years.

Sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*)—Another handsome evergreen shrub, shorter and slower growing than lemonadeberry. Better for smaller gardens. Tiny flowers provide nectar to butterflies and beneficial insects.

Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*)—Gray-green leaves have a haunting, wild west aroma. Hummingbirds go gaga over nectar contained in the striking, purplish flowers. Many cultivars available.

Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*)—Small tree, deciduous but not necessarily so if you give it water in summer. Tiny flowers with a soft sweet scent will make you think of summer. Tiny blue berries

are good on cereal, or gather them (you might have to fight off the songbirds) and let berries rest a while to make a refreshing beverage.

Matilija poppy (*Romneya* spp.)—Remember this: You only need one. If you have the room, let the roots roam free and you will be rewarded with a large area filled with fabulously huge white poppylike flowers with golden yellow centers. Imagine an oriental poppy on steroids; stalks can get 6' tall. This is a zowie plant when in bloom.

Monkeyflower (*Mimulus* spp.)—Bunnyproof (so far) perennial with appealing flowers in shades of cream, yellow, orange, red, or rust and anything in between. Host plant for the buckeye butterfly and nectar plant for hummers (the bird). Good cut flowers. Not as large as matilija poppy, but then nothing is.

Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)—This is a live oak that can get pretty tall. Don't plant it right next to your trailer. But if you have the room, go for it; with its gray-green shapely leaves, it always looks good. Provides food and housing for wildlife.

Scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*, *Q. dumosa*)—If you have an area too small for one of the larger oaks, plant this one. It has dense foliage and is popular with wildlife. The acorns are cute.

Mints (*Monardella* spp.)—These small, demure perennials will not overtake your whole garden, unlike their boisterous and pushy introduced cousins spearmint and peppermint. Butterflies find *Monardella* flowers irresistible.

Evergreen currant (*Ribes viburnifolium*)—Low-growing evergreen shrub with shiny aromatic leaves. Very attractive, and laughs (ha, ha!) at cold temperatures.

Yes, it is better to laugh than to cry. So why not give your handkerchief a break and plant some natives?

Text copyright © 2007 Pat Pawlowski, a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

Saluting Floral's Centennial Year



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Calendar listings, continued from p. 19

Safety Information Table. Topics include native plant identification, selection, proper plant placement for fire safety, and native plant care. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. www.thegarden.org.

April 16 | Monday

San Diego Rose Society Monthly Meeting. Program to be announced. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. Visitors are always welcome. 7:00 p.m., Consulting Rosarian Corner with Phil Ash. Bring your questions. 7:30 p.m. meeting/program begins. For more information, visit www.sdrosesociety.org.

April 17 | Tuesday

★ San Diego Floral Association quarterly meeting. Professional Propagation Secrets (That You Can Use at Home): Carnivorous Plants and Rex Begonias. Speaker: Jim Booman, Booman Florals. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 6 p.m., optional catered dinner \$12 for members; \$15 for nonmembers. 7 p.m. program. 619-232-5762 for information. www.sdfaral.org. California Native Plant Society general meeting (topic to be announced). 7 p.m., room 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Visit www.cnpsd.org. California Coastal Rose Society General Meeting. 6:15 p.m., "Rose-a-Holics": Rose Show Clinic. 7:00 p.m., "Ways to Win at our May Rose Show." Speakers to be announced. Heritage Hall at Magee Park, 2650 Garfield, Carlsbad. Bring your questions about growing roses—everyone is welcome. Contact Sharon McColgan, 760-967-3856. www.californiacoastalrose.com. La Jolla Garden Club general meeting. Well-known designer and writer Judy Wigand will discuss water-wise gardening with perennials. 1:00 p.m. in the La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd. Visitors are always welcome to the La Jolla Garden Club general meetings. Phone: 858-454-7708.

April 18 | Wednesday

San Diego Camellia Society monthly meeting. 7:00 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

April 21 | Saturday

Plant Propagation Made Easy. Everything you need to know about how to make new plants from cuttings will be taught by Connie Beck, experienced nursery manager. Learn successful techniques for preparing, storing, and planting seeds. Bring samples

of plants and seeds that you wish to propagate. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. This class is offered in partnership with Cuyamaca College's Community Learning Program. For information and to register, call 619-660-4350 or visit www.cuyamaca.edu/preview. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. \$10 for members; \$13 for nonmembers. Please preregister: 10-student minimum to hold class. www.thegarden.org. Class fee: \$30.

April 21-22 | Saturday and Sunday

Dos Valles Garden Club 27th Annual Standard Flower Show entitled "Travel to Adventure," combined with a spring plant sale. Saturday, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. Admission is free. Opportunity drawing and refreshments. For more information, visit www.dosvallesgardenclub.org or call 760-742-4645 or 760-742-0481.

Greenscene Plant Sale and Garden Show. Largest plant sale and garden show in the region. Over 100 vendors selling plants and garden accessories. Time: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Admission: \$6/adults; members free. Parking free. Special members only preview sale April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA. www.arboretum.fullerton.edu

April 25 | Wednesday

Ikebana Demonstration and Workshop by Akiko Bourland, chapter president of the Ohara School. 10:00 a.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado. Guests are welcome. For more information, call Sue at 760-728-5586.

April 28 | Saturday

Spring Bamboo Sale. Presented by the Southern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society and Quail Botanical Gardens, this annual event features more than 100 varieties of bamboo grown by collectors and local growers. For more information, call 619-507-0826 or visit www.abssocal.org. The event is free with the price of admission and free for Quail Botanical Gardens and Bamboo Society members. For information on admission fees, contact Quail Botanical Gardens at 760-436-3036, x206 or visit www.qbgardens.org.

April 28-29 | Saturday and Sunday

81st Annual Coronado Flower Show, "Coronado by the Sea." Spreckels Park at the center of Coronado's Village. 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Saturday; 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Sunday. Adult admission \$3.00; children under 12 and Coronado Floral Association members free. Information: www.coronadoflowershow.com.

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Reviews

Did you know? All the books reviewed in *California Garden* are in the San Diego Floral Association library!



THE BESLER FLORILEGIUM: PLANTS OF THE FOUR SEASONS

(Originally published in 1613 as *Hortus Eystettensis*)

BY BASILIUS BESLER
HARRY N. ABRAMS

\$195; 542 pages; hardcover

Due to the generosity of Joy Adams, the Floral Association Library has acquired this important historic botanical work. What is most important about it are the botanical illustrations done by Basilius Besler, who was a botanist-apothecary employed by Konrad, bishop-prince of Eichstatt, to catalog all of the flowering plants in his extensive garden. Besler used a classification system that emphasized the fundamental unity of the plant world and chose to group the plants by seasons rather than by genus and species as we do today. Furthermore, he chose to render the illustrations in a highly artistic fashion, showing not only the blooms but also the root systems. A team of artists and typographers then transposed his drawings onto copper engravings, from which approximately three hundred copies of Besler's work were made.

Our facsimile edition is copied from one of the 10 colored copies of the original known to exist today. (The book was translated from Latin to French by Gerard G. Aymonin, and then translated from French to English by Eileen Finletter and Jean Ayer.) It is the illustrations that define the book and probably make artists and illustrators the primary audiences for this work. That is probably why the book has been published by Harry N. Abrams, generally known as an art book publisher. Botanical historians would be another likely (very narrow) audience. But all plant enthusiasts ought to appreciate this book.

In each seasonal section, following the pages with the colored plates, pages of written text describe the plants more fully, often stating whether the plants still exist today or whether they are now extinct and other pertinent data. The index is also very good about citing the plants illustrated and described by both botanical names and modern common plant names.

In the Floral Association Library, this book is available as reference only, mainly because of its 15-pound weight and large size. If any California Garden readers are interested in their own coffee-table purchase, the new book price is \$150; you can get used copies through sources such as Amazon, eBay, and Alibris at prices ranging from \$124.95 to \$312.96.—Jean Hughes

KIRSTENBOSCH: A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S FAMOUS BOTANICAL GARDEN

BY COLIN PATERSON-JONES AND
JOHN WINTER
STRIUK PUBLISHERS

32 pages; paperback

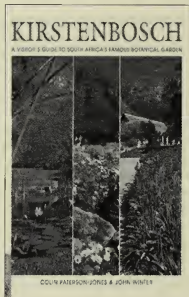
Kirstenbosch is one of the world's most famous botanical gardens and its setting amid the 532 hectares of the eastern slope of Cape Town's Table Mountain makes it even more spectacular. This 40-hectare

estate is the first national garden in the world to be devoted to any one country's indigenous plants; Cecil John Rhodes established it in 1895 with the express purpose of preserving special species of plants as a national heritage. In this case, these are plants that thrive in South Africa's Mediterranean climate.

There is a main garden and a main lawn. The lawn, established in 1913, has two oaks that are from the days when Kirstenbosch was a farm and a pond filled with wildlife. Visitors to the garden wander among some "living fossils," which include the cycads that are the oldest living plant collection in the garden. An extensive *Protea* and *Erica* section is found on a breezy hillside. Another habitat area is the Rockery with the mesembs, South Africa's largest succulent family. The Restios (Cape Reeds) section was developed in 1992 to create public awareness of restios and to explore their horticultural potential. The Forest, 500 hectares with a contour path

cut in 1913, lies 100 meters above the garden and provides an interesting walk through the native trees of this part of the world. The book also speaks of the seasons, the geology of the mountain, and the birdlife.

I regret that the park gift shop and the city bookstores had no comprehensive hardcover book of this fascinating garden. So, the small volume I could purchase will have to suffice until you are able to join the 600,000 plus visitors who annually visit this unique setting—or until I can find a more comprehensive book.—K. Harry



The following events have been scheduled for 2007 in celebration of the San Diego Floral Association Centennial year. Continue to check www.sdfloal.org for more updates.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Dinner meeting with presentation by Lee Burcher, AIFD, PFCI, entitled "Celebrating Floral Design: Past, Present, and Future." Dinner 6 p.m., program 7 p.m. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 23 AND 24

"Legacy of Creativity—A Centennial Celebration," exhibition flower show in the Palm Court of the U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, San Diego. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Friday; 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Gala Centennial Tea and Awards Ceremony. Vintage fashion show; opportunity drawing; awards to be presented: A.D. Robinson Award, Marie Walsh; Martha Rosenberg Award, Velma West; George Marston Award, Walter Andersen; and Kate O.

Sessions Centennial Award, The Roy K and Barbara Jones family. 1:00–3:00 p.m. The Crystal Ballroom at the U.S. Grant Hotel. 326 Broadway, San Diego. Dee and Niki Krutop, Honorary Chairs.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

Dinner meeting with speaker Jim Booman of Booman Florals, "Propagation Secrets (That You Can Use at Home): Carnivorous Plants and Rex Begonias, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

SATURDAY JUNE 2

Garden tour of historic homes.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

Annual meeting and dinner with presentation by Felder Rushing, horticulturist and garden stylist. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Room

101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Butterfly release in the renovated Zoro "Butterfly Garden," Noon, Balboa Park. Rededication of the garden; butterfly release by CHIRP.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Dinner meeting with speaker (to be announced), Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

"Battle of the Blooms," a floral design competition pitting professionals vs. amateurs (location to be announced).

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 AND 8

"Holidays Through the Decades" display at Balboa Park's December Nights.

ONGOING:

Oral History Project
Publication of a Centennial Booklet

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL HONORARY COMMITTEE

Mayor Jerry Sanders
Congresswoman Susan Davis
State Senator Chris Kehoe
State Assembly Member Lori Saldaña
County Supervisor Ron Roberts
Councilwoman Toni Atkins
Walter Andersen
Maureen Austin
Bobbie Bagel
Tenaya Becker
Nancy Carter
Scott and Mary Clifton
Bruce and Alana Coons
Nancy Cottingham
Charles Curtis
Gail Robinson DeFalco
Kathy Taylor DeMurillo
Julian Duval
Paul Ecke III

Marilyn Greer Edgar
Edgar Engert
Gail Garbini
Tom Goad
Adrienne Green
Theodora Gurns
Ruth Hayward
Marian Sessions Healy
Bob Hodges
Roland S. Hoyt, Jr.
Jim and Ann Hubbell
Niki and Dee Krutop
Vince Lazaneo
Margaret Marston
Jane Minshall
Beverly Sessions Munchus
Loren Nancarrow
Midge Neff-LeClair
Betty Newton

Fausto Palafox
Betty Peabody
David Root
Paul Sirois
Casey Smith
George Speer
Nan Sterman
Victor Tongco
Susi Torre-Bueno
Rene Van Rems
Lucy Warren
David Watson
Evelyn Weidner
Pat Welsh
Julie West
Velma West
Agatha Youngblood
Ann Zahner



SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907

1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622

619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

GENERAL MEETINGS

2007

February 20

April 17

June 19

October 16

Casa del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

President

Kay Harry

First Vice President

Lucy Warren

Second Vice President

Lynne Batchelor

Treasurer

John Sandy

Recording Secretary

Dolly Hartman

Corresponding Secretary

Karin Kratz

Parliamentarian

Laura Crenshaw

Historian

Anna Noah

DIRECTORS

Term 2004–2007

Dee Krutop

Annette Reid

Pat Singer

Term 2005–2008

Barbara Forrest

Suzanne Michel

Cheryl Gaidmore

Term 2006–2009

Suzanne Heap

Jacqueline Tomlinson

Arrangers Guild Chair

Dorothy Elwell

AFFILIATES:

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.

Exec. Director: Maureen Austin 619-445-8352

P. O. Box 532

Alpine, CA 91903-0532

CITY BEAUTIFUL OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Tenaya Becker 760-295-8447

Box 9424

San Diego, CA 92169-0424

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE

MILLER GARDEN

Information: 949-499-5518

P. O. Box 742

Laguna Beach CA 92652-0742

Email: marshab@gte.net

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

BALBOA PARK

Contact: Luanne Lao 619-232-2721

2125 Park Blvd.

San Diego, CA 92101-4792

PALOMAR DISTRICT

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Dir: George Speer 760-749-9608

30861 Saddleback Rd.

Valley Center, CA 92082-3848

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

FOUNDATION, INC

Exec. Dir: Julian Duval 760-436-3036

P. O. Box 230005

Encinitas, CA 92023-0005

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN

FOUNDATION

Pres: Victor Tongco 619-234-8901

2125 Park Blvd.

San Diego, CA 92101-4792

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL

MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Exec. Dir: Alexander Chuang 619-338-9888

404 Third Ave.

San Diego, CA 92101-6803

SAN DIEGO ZOO

Horticulture Dept. 619-231-1515 Ext. 4298

P. O. Box 120551

San Diego, CA 92112-0551

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES

COUNCIL

Chair: Nancy Abernethy 760-742-1842

P. O. Box 876

Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876

1st Wed - 10:30 am

Sep., Nov., Jan., Mar., May, North County Fair,

Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY

Contact: Takashi Ijichi 619-255-2501

1455 49th St.

San Diego, CA 92102-2625

1st Sun - 9:00-11:00 a.m., Casa del Prado

Feb., Mar., Apr., Sep., Oct., Nov.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

Librarian: Joan Endres 619-660-0614

12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W

El Cajon, CA 92019-4317

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS

P. O. Box 2711 858-459-0316

La Jolla, CA 92038-2711

MASTER LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC.

3089C Clairemont Drive #296 619-296-9687

San Diego, CA 92117-6802

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR, PAUL ECKE JR.

FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Attn: Lucy Warren 858-792-4273

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Del Mar, CA 92014-2216

Email: flowershow@sdfair.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Vickie V. Driver 858-522-6760

4677 Overland Ave.

San Diego, CA 92123-1233

Email: vdriver@sdscwa.org

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB

Pres.: Judy Dunning/Cindi Lohry 619-579-0222

200 Highline Trail

El Cajon, CA 92021-4082

JIM STELLUTI

CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARTIST

1928 Madison Ave. 619-298-7641

San Diego, CA 92116-2722

GARDEN CLUBS:

ALPINE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Carlette Anderson 619-445-5716

2451 Night Star Ct.

Alpine, CA 91901-1449

1st Fri - 10:00 am, Homes of Members

BERNARDO GARDENERS

Pres: Veleta Camozzi 858-487-0771

17685 Cumana Terrace

San Diego, CA 92128-1813

3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Lynne Batchelor 858-451-6764

16048 Caminito Aire Puro

San Diego, CA 92128-3557

2nd Wed - 9:30 a.m., Bonita Public Library

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Claudette Harshberger 619-435-6042

1217 Alameda Blvd.

Coronado, CA 92118-2710

4th Mon - 9:30 a.m., Winn Room,

Coronado Public Library

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Ellen McGrath-Thorpe 760-931-9863
 3358 Don Diablo Dr.
 Carlsbad, CA 92010-3914
CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Betsy Cory 619-656-8669
 P.O. Box 57
 Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
 3rd Thu - 11:45 a.m., Norman Park Senior Center
CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
 Pres: Nancy Griffith 619-435-8079
 P.O. Box 180188
 Coronado, CA 92118-0188
CROWN GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Jeanne Bowers
 P.O. Box 180476
 Coronado, CA 92178-0476
 4th Thu - 9:30 a.m., Coronado Library
DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Marcia Townsend 760-749-4976
 P.O. Box 123
 Valley Center, CA 92082-0123
 2nd Tue - 12:30 p.m., Valley Center Com. Hall
FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Judy Farnan 760-451-0792
 P.O. Box 1702
 Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
 3rd Wed - 7:00 p.m., FPUd Bldg. on Mission Rd.
 Last Thu - 9:30 a.m., Fallbrook Presbyterian
 Church on Stage Coach
FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
 Chair: Mrs. Neil Powers 858-829-7944
 16049 Vista de Golf
 San Diego, CA 92091-4340
 2nd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Ann Massey 858-292-9414
 P.O. Box 2713
 La Jolla, CA 92038-2713
 3rd Tue - 1:30 p.m., L.J. Lutheran Church
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
 Pres: Vernon Bluhm 760-745-1219
 710 W. 13th Ave. G118
 Escondido, CA 92025
 Email: vbluhm@cox.net
 4th Mon. 2:00 p.m., MiraCosta Bernardo Library, 2nd floor
LAS JARDINERAS
 Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
 3919 Portola Place
 San Diego, CA 92103-2705
 3rd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
 Co-Presidents: Felicia Moscinski 760-726-4047
 809 Olive Ave., #40
 Vista, CA 92083-3373
 Don Nelson 760-630-3580
 952 Park Hill Drive
 Escondido, CA 92025-4853
 Email: donnelson12sbcglobal.net
 3rd Sat - 12:45 p.m., MiraCosta Community
 College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs)
 Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY
MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Kathy Jones 619-546-6051
 4019 Goldfinch St., #166

San Diego, CA 92103
 4th Wed - 6:30 p.m., Mission Hills United Church
 of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw St.
POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Nancy Hurlburt 619-223-3315
 P.O. Box 8382
 San Diego, CA 92166-0382
 2nd Wed - 10:00 a.m., Portuguese Hall
 2818 Avenida de Portugal
POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
 President: Gail Matson 858-886-8969
 P.O. Box 27
 Poway, CA 92074-0027
 2nd Wed - 9:00 a.m., Lake Poway Pavilion
RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Marci Shirley 760-789-8880
 P.O. Box 1412
 Ramona, CA 92065
 2nd Wed - 12:00 noon Ramona Women's Club
RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
 Contact: Susan Botticelli 619-441-8475
 2304 Wind River Road, El Cajon, CA 92019-4154
 3rd Tuesday each month at 9:30 a.m.
RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Hal Sexton 858-756-1554
 P.O. Box 483
 Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483
SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Marj Myers 619-448-3613
 9241 Galston Dr.
 Santee, CA 92071-1510
 4th Tue - 9:30 a.m., Homes of Members
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
 Pres: Susi Torre-Bueno 760-295-7089
 P.O. Box 231869
 Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
 2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except June
 Surfside Race Place
 Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Blvd.
SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Rita Koczela 760-804-7366
 7585 Navigator Cir.
 Carlsbad, CA 92011-5405
 4th Wed - 9:30 a.m., Quail Bot. Gardens
VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
 Pres: Connie Brown 858-453-5363
 6327 Benhurst Ct.
 San Diego, CA 92122-3021
 4th Thu., 10:00 a.m., Torrey Pines Christian Church
VISTA GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Karen England 760-214-3685
 P.O. Box 44
 Vista, CA 92085-0044
 1st Fri - 12:00 noon, Vista Senior Center
IKEBANA SCHOOLS:
ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
 Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046
 10411 San Carlos Dr.
 Spring Valley, CA 91788-1034
IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
 Pres: Janet Judge 858-759-2477
 P.O. Box 2248
 Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-2248
 4th Wed - 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado

IKENOBOKU CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
 Pres: Mrs. Charles Ochler 858-278-5689
 2822 Walker Dr.
 San Diego, CA 92123-3056
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
LA JOLLA CHAPTER
 P.O. Box 500765 858-672-7850
 San Diego, CA 92150-0765
 2nd Tues - 10:00 a.m., La Jolla Library
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
 Pres: Akiko Bourland 858-273-5899
 2936 Havasupai Ave.
 San Diego, CA 92117-1641
SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO BRANCH
 Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137
 10830 Montego Dr.
 San Diego, CA 92124-1421
SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
 Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198
 2829 Flax Dr.
 San Diego, CA 92154-2160
PLANT SOCIETIES:
AFRICAN VIOLET
CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
 Pres: Patty Regan 760-295-0484
 2000 S. Melrose Dr. #119
 Vista, CA 92081
 4th Mon - 10:30 a.m. - Vista Library,
 700 Eucalyptus Ave.
BEGONIA
ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
 Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
 4505 Long Branch Ave.
 San Diego CA 92107-2333
 2nd Tue - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
MABEL CORWIN BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
 Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919
 467 Fulvia
 Encinitas, CA 92024-2146
 2nd Sun - 1:30 p.m., except May & Aug.
 Quail Gardens
MARGARET LEE BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
 Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
 6040 Upland St.
 San Diego CA 92114-1933
 Last Sat - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
BONSAI
HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
 Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957
 9976 Dauntless St.
 San Diego, CA 92126-5514
 1st Sun. every other month (begin Feb.)
 10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado
SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
 Information: 619-699-8776
 P.O. Box 40037
 San Diego CA 92164-0037
 2nd Sun. - 10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado, Rm. 101
 Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am
 before meeting

CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (continued)

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK

Pres: Joann Dossett 619-299-4115
2871 Brant St.
San Diego, CA 92103-6119
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Robert Vitacco 619-469-3539 (weekends only)
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
P.O. Box 83996
San Diego, CA 92138-3966
2nd Sat., 10:00 a.m., Room 104, Casa del Prado,
Balboa Park

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 840
Escondido, CA 92033
4th Sat. - 12:15 p.m., Joslyn Sr. Ctr., Escondido
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Mark Fryer 619-795-1020
P.O. Box 33181
San Diego, CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat. - 1:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659
6114 La Jolla Blvd.
La Jolla, CA 92037-6702
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov. through Apr. ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129-1116
Email: djsj21643@aol.com
4th Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Contact: Betsy Hamblin 858-483-5584
851 Opal St.
San Diego, CA 92109-1780
1st Sat. - 10:00 a.m., Sep. through May
Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

Pres: Phil Peck 619-491-9495
P.O. Box 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127
Website: www.epiphyllum.com
2nd Wed. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

Pres: Sherry Worthen 858-278-2017
3141 Cabrillo Mesa Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-2945
3rd Thu. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

Chair: David Silverstein
4722 Coronado Ave.

San Diego, CA 92107-3543
4th Thu. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Nov. & Dec. ONLY, 3rd Thu.

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Jim Budlove 619-287-6299
6404 Zena Dr.
San Diego, CA 92115-7026
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB

Copresidents: Judy Dunning and Cindi Lohry
619-579-0222
Meetings on the 1st Wed. of every month at
7:00 p.m., Balboa Park
Casa del Prado, Room 101

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES

IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Ted Howse 619-479-3887
3915 Vista San Miguel, Bonita, CA 91902-2345
2nd Sun. - 1:00 p.m.
Call for newsletter and location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
4512 Sunnyslope Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3119
1st Thu. - 7:30 p.m. - Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 619-685-7321
P.O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
3rd Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
3045 Felicita Rd.
Escondido, CA 92029-6725
4th Mon. - 2:00 p.m. - Rancho Bernardo
Library, 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Pres: Loren Ellsworth 858-748-8355
14730 Dash Way
Poway, CA 92064-2914
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Genie Hammond 619-426-6831
P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176-1020
1st Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Ron Nordfelt 619-475-8086

935 Rawhide Ct.
Bonita, CA 91902-2422
4th Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Bonita Valley Baptist Church at
4701 Sweetwater Rd. Meeting in back. EXCEPT Aug.
& Dec.

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY

Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795
P.O. Box 20553
El Cajon, CA 92021-0940
4th Sun. - 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Feb. through Oct.
Casa del Prado, Room 102
Email: c.herzog@att.net

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Karen Mannino 619-401-9625
11977 Pasco Fuerte
El Cajon, CA 92020-8366
Website: www.eastcountyrosesociety.com
1st Sun - 2:00 p.m., except July & Aug.
Gardens of Members
SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY 619-462-5753
Pres: Ruth Tiffany
6705 Maury Dr.
San Diego, CA 92119-2020
www.sdrosesociety.org
3rd Mon. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Jan. & Feb. - 4th Mon.
No meetings July & Aug.

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES

Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE
P.O. Box 120505 FAX 619-223-TREE
San Diego, CA 92112-0505
Email: adoglover1@juno.com
4th Tue. - 6:30 p.m., 743 Imperial Ave.

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

Pres: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704
1302 Avocado Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
3rd Sun - Apr. through Oct.
Website: groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden
Email: dc@pondplants.com
Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:

Send changes to Affiliates Editor, California
Garden, 1650 El Prado #105,
San Diego, CA 92101-1622. Call 619-232-5762
Email: membership@sdfloral.org

Deadline for March/April issue: January 20, 2007

Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-card-sized ad at half price. We can accept your designed ad (tiff or jpeg files preferred) or we can design one for you (using copy and images provided by you). Business-card-sized ads measure 3.5 inches wide by 2.25 inches high.



Both of these photos were taken at a 1912 garden party at the home of Alfred D. Robinson, above, in the foreground. Behind him, in black, is Mary Alice Greer. In the photo at left is Kate Sessions, in the center with hat and scarf.

Who Are These People?

The San Diego Floral Association has had many persons of significance in its leadership throughout the history of the organization. Strong personalities, earnestly committed to the betterment of the community, have led with vision and passion, inspiring the region as a whole to mature and realize its full potential, not only in horticulture, but as a major city in the nation. Accomplishments such as Balboa Park, planting street trees, establishing parks, the Panama-Pacific Exposition, cleaning beaches, spring and fall flower shows, and organizing community gardens have all been goals well-achieved by the group.

Kate Sessions, “Mother of Balboa Park,” is a well-known, loved, and acclaimed nursery woman. Well-educated, passionate, and dynamic, she was a driving force in the planting of street trees and development of parks in San Diego. She corresponded worldwide and was responsible for the introduction and popularization of many plants. Kate was a ceaseless supporter of the association, bringing in interesting plants and creating flower shows. She “reigned” at nearly every board meeting for many years from her tall wicker chair in the Floral office.

Alfred D. Robinson, creator of the once-lush Rosecroft Begonia Gardens on Point Loma. Robinson was a driving force for the association, socially personable; his vision instigated the beloved Botanical Building in Balboa Park. As editor of *California Garden* magazine, he wielded an inspirational pen pointing out benefits of projects, praising well-accomplished efforts of individuals and groups, and encouraging all to aspire to greatness.

George Marston, owner of Marston’s Department Store, was an unfailing champion of this city and its development. He sponsored plans for the development of Balboa Park and Presidio Park. Not a horticulturist by training, he nonetheless knew the importance of parks, plants, trees, and flowers in the development of the city he had taken as home. As a respected city leader, he often served as ally, confidant, and supporter of Kate Sessions and A.D. Robinson.

Roland Hoyt had a lifelong passion for plants. After working with the Oldmstead Brothers on the Palos Verdes Estates, he settled

in San Diego, where he fulfilled Marston’s vision of restoring the Presidio into a park with proper planting, later applying equal vision to Mission Bay, creating a marvelous recreational area from marshland. In his civic and private garden work, he was adamant about planting the right plant in the right place. His book of lists, *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*, has aided countless gardeners and the latest printing is available at the Floral office.

Mary Alice Greer, a much-loved and no-nonsense woman, took leadership roles in the San Diego Floral Association for nearly four decades and served as president for 27 years, 1926–1948. It was written of her, “There should be red roses, emblematic of her warm affection for her friends. Lilies would signify the strength, dignity and poise of her character. There would be forget-me-nots to tell of those dear old days when Mrs. Greer, Miss Sessions and Mr. Robinson accomplished wonders at the flower shows of our then small city.”

Alice M. Clark, deaf from an early illness, became involved in the association in 1940, when she wrote her first article for the magazine, and she continued her participation for over three decades. For many years, she served as editor of *California Garden*. She was a tireless volunteer and promoter of the association, as well as an accomplished artist. Her interest in begonias led a rare species to be named for her, *Begonia alice-clarkae*. The mid-’70s saw the publication of her book *Begonia Portraits*.

Chauncy I. Jerabek, the tree man, arrived in San Diego in 1911 at age 20 expecting a tropical paradise and was astonished at the lack of trees. He quickly decided that the lack of trees was not the fault of the climate, but that people hadn’t bothered to plant them, and he found his life mission. Encouraged by Kate Sessions, Chauncy began planting trees. He began planting eucalyptus groves at Scripps Miramar Ranch for Edward W. Scripps. For 38 years, he planted trees for the Parks Department of the City of San Diego, including trees in Balboa Park and Old Town. Much of his legacy still survives.—Lucy Warren



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